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THESIS

COMBATting TERRORISM THROUGH STUDY OF THE
GENETIC PSYCHOLOGY OF TERRORIST LEADERS--
THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF THE TERRORIST MIND

by

Peter Martinez Jr.

December 1989

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Combatting Terrorism Through Study of the
Genetic Psychology of Terrorist Leaders--
the Early Development of the Terrorist Mind

by

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Captain, United States Air Force
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Submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of

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ABSTRACT

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is irrefutable that each individual is a product of genetic input from his father and mother. One can see this quite easily when one views similarities among child, mother, and father. Paul Mussen, in his book, The Psychological Development of the Child, states that,

...on the basis of the striking resemblances between parents and their children, there can be little doubt that many aspects of appearance are inherited. Genetic factors determine such characteristics as sex, eye color, texture and color of skin and hair, and size and shape of the face. Heredity is largely responsible too for an individual's relative height and weight, and for the dimensions of his hand.¹

In our modern day of advanced computerization, some law enforcement agencies have used the computer to try to estimate what a kidnapped child might look like in later years. This is done by superimposing a photograph of the father over the male child and using physical features of the father to approximate what the child might look like years after the kidnapping. This technique is important testimony that genetically inherited physical characteristics are important and link child to parent(s).

If an individual can inherit physical characteristics from his parents, why not behavioral characteristics? Is there any truth in the saying: "If you want to know what

¹Paul H. Mussen, The Psychological Development of the child (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall Inc., 1963), p. 30.

she is like, meet her mother?" There are child psychologists who warn that attributing a person's behavior solely to genetic inheritance can be dangerous. The fact that one's father was a criminal does not necessarily mean that the offspring will also be a criminal.² Is it not possible, however, for a son to inherit aggressive tendencies if the father was an aggressive individual? Mussen asserts that "there is clear-cut evidence that certain characteristics of dogs and other animals--such as aggressiveness, nervousness, timidity and sociality--are strongly influenced by genetic endowment. For example, selective breeding can produce litters of mild, calm dogs or of nervous, aggressive ones."³ Mussen does state that there is no evidence that such characteristics are transmitted genetically in human beings.⁴ This last statement can also be viewed in another fashion. There is also no evidence to deny that such characteristics are transmitted genetically in human beings.

Law enforcement agencies and intelligence gathering organizations need personal information on individuals (i.e., terrorist leaders, criminal subjects) in order to better neutralize them and their organizations. It is

²Telecon October 17, 1989 between author and Professor Martha Morehouse, Psychology Department, University of California at Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, California.

³Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 59.

⁴Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 59.

probable that dossiers are kept on such individuals. In a dossier, information concerning traits of the subject's parents would be invaluable as knowledge about the terrorist. Genetic inheritance is a reality. Environmental upbringing is also a reality. Both included in a dossier would enable law enforcement agencies to really "know" the individual and better predict a subject's reaction in a particular environment. Law enforcement agencies could take this one step further and possibly create a known stressful environment in order to more effectively neutralize human "targets."

This thesis will address the importance of genetic and environmental influences on individuals. Case studies will be presented on Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Ilich Ramirez Sanchez ("CARLOS"). The concluding chapter will address in detail how genetic and environmental factors can assist law enforcement agencies in neutralizing practicing proponents of "terror."

II. GENETIC INHERITANCE

Juan Pujol, the most successful double agent of World War II stated that to know his father was to understand Juan Pujol.¹ Collection of genetic information is essential in learning about an individual. Genetic inheritance is a factor common to all individuals. It is inevitable that a newborn baby has genes from the mother and father. We know these genes consist of an element of germ plasm that controls the transmission of a hereditary character.²

Charles Galton Darwin published a book in 1953 entitled, The Next Million Years. In this book he stated that the

...germ cell of every animal contains a very large number of genes, and these dictate all the details of the animal's development, such as whether it is to be tall or short, light or dark, and so on. There are known rules, some of them quite complicated, but still perfectly definite, which determine how the genes are handed on from one generation to the next. The new generation has to have a complete outfit of genes, and this it accomplishes by drawing each particular gene from its father or its mother, but not from both; it is pure chance which parent contributes any particular gene. So the offspring contains a mixture of the genes of its parents, and therefore develops a mixture of their qualities. The genes of man, like those of every other animal, control the

¹Juan Pujol with Nigel West, Operation Garbo: The Personal Story of the Most Successful Double-Agent of World War II (New York: Random House Inc., 1985), p. 11. Pujol's exact quote concerning his father states: "for to write about him is to understand my subsequent actions."

²Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary (Springfield, Massachusetts: G&C Merriam Company, 1974), p. 477.

development of every part of his body, and this includes his brain....³

In February 1989, Science News published an article entitled, "Doling Out DNA," which related that biologist John Patton was applying DNA "fingerprint tests" to help identify species of similar types for the mating of endangered species. The DNA fingerprint process entails

...highly specific enzymes and molecular "probes" that can cut and label pieces of DNA bearing particular molecular sequences. Scientists apply these labeled DNA fragments to a gelatin strip that sorts the pieces by size. The result is an easy-to-read, black-and-white representation of an animal's genetic code that resembles the "bar codes" found today on the packaging of most grocery items. The scientists can then compare this bar code, or DNA to measure their degrees of genetic similarity. And with that information in hand, they can choose pairs of prospective parents that are not too alike and not too different.⁴

Patton is preparing his genetic data base in St. Louis, Missouri, for breeders of captive African elephants.

Patton's goal is to be able to get enough DNA from a small sample of tusk to tell the difference between various subtypes of the African behemoth. If the tusk technique proves feasible, he suggests, DNA fingerprinting may prove valuable to the species' survival not only by improving mate selection but also by identifying illegally transported ivory from poached elephants....Developed only three years ago, it [DNA fingerprinting] has already triggered a revolution in molecular genetics...and has begun to find its way into U.S. courtrooms because of its ability to link tiny bits of evidence such as hair or semen to accused murderers or rapists.⁵

³Charles G. Darwin, The Next Million Years (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1953), pp. 80-81.

⁴Rick Weiss, "Doling Out DNA," Science News, February 4, 1989, p. 73.

⁵Weiss, "Doling Out DNA," pp. 72-74. All information regarding John Patton obtained from this source.

Advocates of DNA fingerprinting...maintain that the tests are practically foolproof if done properly....Unlike traditional fingerprinting which is done by police experts in official labs, DNA testing is carried out by several private firms that specialize in the technique....Official standards...are being developed by the FBI, along with several state governments.⁶

Elton B. McNeil, in his book, The Concept of Human Development, describes prenatal development, stating that,

...the sperm of the father and the egg (ovum) of the mother are united at conception. Both the sperm and the egg are living germ cells (called **gametes**), which unite into a single new cell (the **zygote**). The egg and the sperm both contain tiny structures, **chromosomes**, which, in turn, have ultramicroscopic areas called **genes**. As many as 20,000 to 60,000 genes exist, and each of them is vital to the development of some bodily or behavioral characteristic of human growth. DNA...scientists have discovered, is the main chemical constituent of each gene. If the gene is viewed as a giant molecule, then the atoms of DNA form a double spiral of two strands twisted together in a complex fashion. The complicated arrangement and order of the atoms on this spiral can be viewed as a kind of master code or blueprint outlining the nature of the protein molecule for which that particular gene will be responsible.⁷

Consider the consequences of a DNA molecule that can be rearranged. "At Harvard, a group of researchers (Doty, et al., 1960)...discovered how to 'take apart' the DNA molecule and reassemble it without killing its biological activity."⁸ McNeil advises concerning gene mutations that,

...it is generally agreed that environmental influences can be transmitted to future generations only if they produce permanent changes in the gene arrangement or the

⁶Dick Thompson, "A Trial of High-Tech Detectives," Time, June 5, 1989, p. 63.

⁷Elton B. McNeil, The Concept of Human Development (California: Wadsworth Publishing Company, 1966), p. 11.

⁸McNeil, The Concept of Human Development, p. 12.

chromosomal structure. When such a change occurs, it is labeled mutation. We have known for some time, of course, that there are various ways in which mutations can be produced. Radiation for example, can produce mutations by breaking the chromosome structure. These broken chromosomes reunite, but in a way different from their original form....Radiation tends to fall from the atmosphere and be absorbed in the soil and the grasses that grow in our country. These grasses in turn are eaten by cows, and the radiation gets transmitted from the cows to the milk and then to the children and adults who drink it. Children, in the process of growing and forming bones, teeth, and similar structures, tend to absorb radiation at a much more rapid rate than do adults. Thus, the possible degree of genetic damage is bound to be greater for children than adults.⁹

Another example of gene mutation is the effect of smoking on DNA. In the March 11, 1989 issue of Science News, an article entitled "Pictures Show Smoking's Ill Effects on DNA" advised that,

...scientists generally agree that the first step in initiation of most cancers is the creation of adducts--DNA changes that occur when a carcinogen covalently binds to genetic material. A husband-wife research team [Kurt and Erika Randerath of the Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas] using a radioactive labeling technique they pioneered, has begun mapping those changes. In the DNA of cancer patients who smoke cigarettes, radiographs show an adduct pattern that intensifies with the amount and duration of smoking. Moreover, traces of this adduct pattern can persist in former smokers for at least 14 years....Though the Randerath's technique is still in its infancy, "It's by far the most sensitive DNA-adduct detection technique, and as such is very exciting," says Stephen Hecht, who studies cigarette smoking and cancer at the American Health Foundation in Valhalla, N.Y. Hecht suspects it will not only reveal new clues to cancer causation, but will also indicate a way "to measure DNA adducts in a person the way we now measure cholesterol. It could then give an indication of cancer susceptibility."¹⁰

⁹McNeil, The Concept of Human Development, pp. 13-14.

¹⁰Jo Raloff, "Pictures Show Smoking's Ill Effects on DNA," Science News, March 11, 1989, p. 151.

This type of research demonstrates the detail and seriousness of DNA research in our day and the possible genetic change that could be transmitted to future generations through muted genes.

Charles G. Darwin relates that under a principle called the **Non-inheritance of Acquired Characters**, offspring would not inherit any changes obtained by the parent during the parent's lifetime. This theory purports that,

...the new generation derives its genes from those of its parents, and these prenatal genes were laid down before the parents were born; and they will not in any way have been affected by his and her later experiences, including those experiences which occurred before the procreation of the offspring.

Darwin cites the simplest example as that of mutilation.¹¹ This theory seems to support the existence of inherited traits being passed from one generation to another, **regardless** of environmental influences during one's lifetime. One such area seems to be in the inheritability of certain diseases.

We know that there are diseases that can be inherited such as epilepsy, schizophrenia, and manic depression. Anthony Smith, in his book, The Human Pedigree, states that,

...without doubt faulty genes are responsible for much faulty mental behavior, and yet most of us keep the idea of genetics in quite a different compartment in our brains from the facts we know about mental health. The two should be more closely allied. For example, genetic predisposition is a necessary (if not a sufficient) condition for the emergence of the schizophrenias and the manic depressive disorders. Also, if one parent is

¹¹Darwin, The Next Million Years, pp. 84-85.

schizophrenic, the risk is ten percent that the same disease will affect an offspring. Worse still, and aggravating the situation further, this risk continues throughout life; until late adolescence at the earliest.¹²

Philip Elmer-Dewitt in a March 20, 1989 Time magazine article, advised that,

University of Washington ethicist Albert Jonsen is concerned that people with grave illnesses might be viewed simply as carriers of genetic traits. "Rather than saying 'Isn't that family unfortunate to have a schizophrenic son,' we'll say 'That's a schizophrenia family.'"¹³

The article, however, poses another viewpoint, that of Thomas Murray, director of the Center for Biomedical Ethics at Case Western Reserve University, who,

...acknowledges that some people are worried that a complete map of the genome [chromosomes and their genes] might somehow "diminish our moral dignity...reduce us somehow to nothing more than the chemical constituents of our bodies." But knowing the entire sequence of DNA base pairs is like having the full musical notation of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, he says. "In no way does that knowledge diminish the grandeur of the symphony itself."¹⁴

An historical example of the importance of genetic transfer is when Philip IV of Spain married Mariana of Austria in 1649.

Presumably there was some rejoicing as bride and groom sped off to a palatial retreat where, presumably, they initiated themselves into the business of rearing further members of their historic family. Instead of that rejoicing, there should perhaps have been more solemnity, because the marriage had a doomed nature to it, not so

¹²Anthony Smith, The Human Pedigree (New York: J.B. Lippincott Company, 1975), p. 283.

¹³Philip Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," Time, March 20, 1989, p. 70

¹⁴Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 71.

much in its personalities as in its genes....The trouble was a strong streak of mental weakness in various of the couple's ancestors combined with a policy of inbreeding that had tended to concentrate the error....Had there been wedding guests (in fact, the marriage was a quiet occasion), many of them would have been related over and over again to both bride and groom, and would have been hard put to say which side had their greater loyalty. Worse still, and distinct from inbreeding, there had been mental illness in the family.

There had been, for example, "the mad Isabella," and she had been grandmother to Juana la Loca [Juana the Crazy], a probable schizophrenic who had grown increasingly hysterical, suicidal, and melancholy throughout her long life. The importance of these two sick people from Philip and Mariana's point of view was the number of times their genes could have been handed down to them. Every single one of the couple's eight grandparents had Juana la Loca as a direct ancestor, and the name of mad Isabella occurs even greater frequency in the family trees of all those involved....Such then is the background to Carlos the Bewitched, son of Philip and Mariana, born November 6, 1661, 12 years after their fated marriage. (Six out of their previous eight children either had been born dead or had died very early.)...By the time his subsequent marriage, to a niece of Louis XIV, the young Carlos was in bad shape. His jaw was so deformed that he could not chew, and his digestive system reacted to the arrival of great lumps of food by recurrent indigestion. The poor man also suffered from frequent fevers, from attacks of giddiness, from common discharges, and from rashes. Mentally, as John Nada phrases it in his book about him, Carlos "had a mind appropriate to the body." Eventually in 1700, the deformed and deranged victim of his inheritance arrived at his deathbed and became stone deaf. They put cantharides (spanish fly) on his feet and a freshly killed pigeon on his head to prevent vertigo. They kept him warm by placing fresh animal entrails on his stomach. He became speechless, almost understandably, as well as deaf, and died fairly speedily. The postmortem discovered a heart allegedly the size of a small nut, three large stones in the liver, kidneys rich with water instead of blood, and putrid intestines. So ended, says Nada, "the Hapsburg dream of conquering the world by marriages, and so died the last Spanish Hapsburg descended from poor Juana la Loca."¹⁵

¹⁵Smith, The Human Pedigree, pp. 84-85.

It is possible that similar diseases and maladies acquired from one Hapsburg generation to another was coincidence? A more probable explanation is that these illnesses were a result of genetic transfer from one Hapsburg generation to the next.

Another example of poor genetic transfer is that of King George III of England.

He was ill in 1765, when aged 26, but this sickness was of little importance, however important the date to the American Revolution. He was ill again in 1788, 23 years later, and this time he suffered abdominal pains, weakness, convulsions, and stupor. Equally abruptly he recovered the following year, in time to frustrate Parliament from hastily establishing a regency in that revolutionary year of 1789. For 12 more years all was well, but in 1801 and 1804, when he was age 62 and 65 the same symptoms recurred. Once more the king recovered, but in 1810 the disease hit him again, and this time there was no such alleviation. From the age of 72 until his death at 81 he fulfilled that schoolboy picture of the king, sick in body as well as mind....The current suspicion is that he was a victim of porphyria. He did pass red urine from time to time, although the normal porphyriac passes urine that becomes reddish-brown only if left awhile.... Also he did have periods of insanity, although that is only an infrequent result of the disease....Earlier and ancestral illnesses help to clarify this picture. King James I of England suffered from colic 150 years earlier, but this did not prevent him from casually describing his urine as the color of a favored Alicante wine. His mother, Mary Queen of Scots, is also believed to have suffered from the disease. From James, assuming the distant diagnosis is correct, the inheritance passed to both the Hanoverian and the Prussian royal lines. Later on the English imported a Hanoverian king, together with his inheritance, and in 1738 the genetic defect reached the infant who, 22 years later, ascended the throne and, as legend has it, promptly went mad and lost the American colonies.¹⁶

¹⁶Smith, The Human Pedigree, pp. 87-88.

Studies of combat stress in World War I described as shell shock were initiated in France and eventually carried out by researchers in the major belligerent states. The studies agreed that those who "cracked" under the pressure, almost all had some immediate family incidence of mental instability.¹⁷

Elmer-Dewitt advised that,

...no geneticist today would even talk about creating a master race. Scientists are careful to point out that experiments in gene therapy will be aimed at curing hereditary disease and relieving human suffering, not at producing some sort of superman....Someday, however, it may be possible to change genes in germ cells, which give rise to sperm or eggs. If that feat is accomplished, the new genes would have to be transmitted to one generation after another....No geneticist is currently planning to transfer genes to human germ cells. Even though mankind has been playing God since biblical times, rearranging the germ lines of crops and farm animals to suit human needs, researchers do not advocate extending such genetic tinkering to people. But medical scientists have an obligation to protect humanity against disease and pestilence. Once it becomes possible to eradicate a gene that causes a fatal disorder, and thus keep it from passing to future generations, it will be criminal not to do so.¹⁸

Studies of the inheritability of intelligence and psychopathic behavior have also been done. John Fuller and William Thompson in their book, Behavior Genetics, advise that we are not saying criminal tendencies *per se* are inherited, but that traits such as aggressiveness and physical strength can be inherited which could be used in a

¹⁷Dr. Russel H.S. Stolfi, Class Notes, Summer Quarter, 1989. Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

¹⁸Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 71.

crime.¹⁹ This point is an interesting one because it suggests that the capability to do specific things can be inherited. Jerry Hirsch in his edited book, Behavior-Genetic Analysis, states that,

...even among the highest mammals, such as man, it is by no means the case that all behavior patterns are learned or even subject to learning; some reflexes remain at the completely automatic level, and...aspects of food uptake are modified by learning but are not dependent on it....If the organism does not have the opportunity to learn, the behavior patterns either will not develop at all or will develop in an abnormal way. In these cases, the ability to learn particular behavior patterns, the necessity to learn them, the time when they can and must be learned seem to be themselves under genetic control.²⁰

If the capacity to learn is indeed related to genetics, then there is a correlation between learning and intelligence with genetic inheritance. Mussen in his book about the psychological development of the child, describes a study done concerning intelligence capabilities. He compared: (1) the intelligence test scores of foster children adopted in infancy with those of their foster parents, and (2) the intelligence of children raised by their true parents and that of the parents. He stated,

...children resemble their true fathers and mothers in intelligence-test performance to a significantly greater degree than foster children resemble their foster parents. Presumably, heredity accounts for the greater similarity in the former situation, especially since the foster children were adopted very early in life. Findings such as these leave little doubt that heredity determines the

¹⁹John Fuller and William Thompson, Behavior Genetics (New York: John Wiley, 1964), p. 301.

²⁰Jerry Hirsch, ed., Behavior-Genetic Analysis (New York: McGraw-Hill, Inc., 1967), p. 130.

limits within which environment may raise or lower a child's intelligence test score.²¹

Karen Wright, in her article entitled "The Blood-Brain Barrier: More Evidence Links Genes and Intelligence" [March 1989 issue of Scientific American], advised that

...evidence amassed over the past 60 years suggests there is a genetic component to intelligence, and the most recent piece of evidence comes from a study reported in Nature. The authors--David W. Fulker and John C. DeFries of the University of Colorado at Boulder and Robert Plomin of Pennsylvania State University--tested 245 adopted children and their biological and adoptive parents on various measures of cognitive ability such as perceptual skills, memory and abstract reasoning, all of which are represented by the so-called intelligence quotient (IQ). The children were tested when they were one, two, three and four years old and again after they had completed first grade....Fulker and his colleagues found that the children's scores on the tests are more closely correlated with those of their biological parents than with those of their adoptive parents.²²

John Scott, in his book, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, explains that "gene action can come very close to behavior in that genes may modify the internal reactions of muscle cells and nerve cells and so produce a relatively direct effect on behavior."²³ Hirsch relates that "the phenomena which we understand by the term behavior are phenotypic phenomena. As all phenotypes, they

²¹Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 50.

²²Karen Wright, "The Blood-Brain Barrier: More Evidence Links Genes and Intelligence," Scientific American, March 1989, p. 27.

²³John Paul Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior (California: Brooks/Cole Publishing Company, Inc., 1969), p. 141.

arise during the development of the individual, which is controlled by the action of the genes."²⁴ Even the development of motor skills is directly related to genetic inheritance according to Scott. He advises that,

...there are tremendous differences in the rate of development of motor skills. In the sample of children studied by Gesell (1940), babies might start to walk as early as eight and as late as 18 months with a median of 15 months of age. Presumably, much of this difference is caused by differences in heredity, although the effect of early experience cannot be excluded.²⁵

The propensity to act or react in a certain situation is certainly influenced by genetic inheritance. Scott opines that genes only affect chemical reactions and states, therefore, that all genetic effects on behavior are thus indirect. He also states, however, that gene action can affect any chemical reactions going on in the body at any time during life, "including those processes directly concerned with nerve action."²⁶

Now, the possible propensity to do something is quite different from saying because the father was a criminal, the son will be a criminal.

History shows that genetic misinformation can be severely damaging. Take, for example, the supposed link between the XYY chromosome pattern and criminal behavior. In 1965 a study of violent criminals in a Scottish high-security mental institution found that a surprisingly high

²⁴Hirsch, Behavior-Genetic Analysis, p. 128.

²⁵Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, pp. 119-120.

²⁶Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, p. 46.

percentage had a particular chromosomal abnormality: in addition to the X and Y chromosomes normally found in men, each carried an extra Y, or "male" chromosome. The press and public seized on the idea that these so-called supermales were genetically predestined to a life of crime. That interpretation proved false. Further investigations showed that the vast majority of men with the XYY pattern--an estimated 96%--lead relatively normal lives. But before the matter was put to rest, a variety of measures were proposed to protect society from the perceived threat. One group of scientists urged massive prenatal screenings, presumably to allow parents to arrange for abortions. Others initiated long-range studies to identify XYY infants and track their progress over the years through home visits, psychological tests and teacher questionnaires. These dubious efforts were eventually abandoned, but not before a group of innocent youngsters had been unfairly labeled as somehow inferior.²⁷

This author is not proposing "labeling" individuals but gathering information of "possible" inherited traits that could be used to "know" the subject better.

Supporters of genetic research are generally agreed on four points:

[1] Individuals should not be required to submit to genetic testing against their will. [2] Information about people's genetic constitution should be used only to inform and never to harm. [3] The results of genetic assay should be held in strict confidence. [4] Genetic engineering in humans should be used to treat diseases, not to foster genetic uniformity.²⁸

The study of genome [chromosomes and associated genes] of humans will not go away. One thing is certain: the genie cannot be put back into the bottle. Like atomic energy, genetic engineering is an irresistible force that will not be wished or legislated away. The task ahead is to

²⁷Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 70.

²⁸Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 71.

channel that force into directions that save lives but preserve humanity's rich genetic heritage.²⁹

An example of continuing research in this area is provided in a March 31, 1989 Science article entitled, "Britain Launches Genome Program." The article stated that,

Britain's Medical Research Council has announced plans to establish a major new computerized database for storing and distributing data on the structure and function of the human genome [chromosomes and genes]. To be located at the MRC's Clinical Research Center at Northwick Park in northwest London, it will be part of a new human genome resource center that will conduct some mapping and sequencing...and support and coordinate efforts in other laboratories throughout the United Kingdom....The scientific strategy to be followed will initially be to construct a genetic, rather than a physical, map of the genome, concentrating on the location of identified genes. Brenner [Sydney Brenner of the MRC's Molecular Genetics Unit at Cambridge] says he is keen that Britain's program be based on practical achievements and that it produce early results of value to researchers working on specific diseases. "Our first step will be to bring together detailed information on about 10% of the genome, working with about 100 bits of cloned DNA, and sending them out to various groups...."³⁰

The study of human genes will hopefully enable law enforcement agencies to be able to identify genetic traits in criminals as well as terrorists. How many times is the question asked concerning a proponent of terror: Why did he do it? What drove him to take such drastic action? Genetic inheritance is part of the answer. An FBI statement regarding the prevention of terrorism is found in its October 1987 FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin. It states that

²⁹Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 71.

³⁰David Dickson, "Britain Launches Genome Program," Science, March 31, 1989, p. 1657.

"in an effort to prevent terrorist activity, the FBI collects information on individuals....This serves not only to aid prosecution, but it builds the intelligence base which makes the prevention of terrorist acts possible."³¹

Deborah Galvin, in her article, "The Female Terrorist: A Socio-Psychological Perspective," advised that,

...the actual success of the woman in the terrorist organization and her ability to take on a leadership role and/or assist in operational decisions as well as in the operations themselves may be more a function of the woman's personality and psychological make-up than her desire to be a terrorist, her skills, or her physical qualities. Those who do not meet the unique toughness of manner and spirit either quit or take on lesser roles within the organization.³²

Does it not therefore make sense to include in a terrorist dossier or profile a listing of traits of the mother and father? Elmer-Dewitt advises that,

...once someone's genes have been screened, the results could find their way into computer banks. Without legal restrictions, these personal revelations might eventually be shared among companies and government agencies. Just like a credit rating or an arrest record, a DNA analysis could become part of a person's permanent electronic dossier. If that happens, one of the last vestiges of individual privacy would disappear.³³

Although Elmer-Dewitt's concerns are real and should be considered, this author feels that the knowledge of one's

³¹Oliver B. Revell, "Terrorism Today," FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, October 1977.

³²Deborah M. Galvin, "Female Terrorist: A Socio-Psychological Perspective," Behavioral Sciences and the Law, 1983, Vol. 1, No. 2.

³³Elmer-Dewitt, "The Perils of Treading on Heredity," p. 70.

DNA would enhance, not detract, from law enforcement agencies' ability to "read" the criminal or terrorist behavior and not necessarily take away "the last vestiges of individual privacy." Until individual genetic screening is possible, a dossier with parental traits could be its predecessor. Knowledge of these parental traits could be compared against a terrorist in order to see which one or ones seem to match. The police or intelligence analyst could then understand and better know the terrorist and, as stated, possibly create appropriate environments to neutralize the "target." A simple entry in a dossier stating a subject is aggressive is useful but incomplete. Why is the subject aggressive? A possible inquiry of the subject's parents might reveal that the father or mother (or both) were aggressive individuals with "short fuses." This would be helpful in knowing that a very real possibility exists that the subject also has limited patience. Hostage negotiations could proceed with this additional knowledge of more efficiently gauging how far one could push and negotiate with this individual as well as predict when, where, and what; for the next act of terror.

Naturally, the interaction of the environment with the individual is also important in determining what makes a person "tick." Genetics and environment together provide a better picture of the makeup of an individual. One without

the other provides only a partial picture. The next chapter will address environmental influences.

III. CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENT

This chapter will focus on the environment of the child. It is during childhood years that lasting impressions, views and perceptions, are made about the world by a child through his interaction with his environment. Genetics and environment work together to give one a comprehensive view of a person's psychological makeup. Where is the link? An individual's genetic inheritance provides a catalyst for willful action or reaction to a particular environmental stimulus. Environmental explanations are not the end-all in the understanding of human development. The environment does play, of course, an important part in human development.

The importance of environmental stimuli is shared by many, especially teachers in child development.¹ Mussen, in his book, The Psychological Development of the Child, advises that environmental influences such as serious illness, dietary deficiencies, and emotional upset could affect a person's psychological traits, period of puberty,

¹Telecon between author and Professor Martha Morehouse, Psychology Department, University of California at Santa Cruz: Santa Cruz, California, October 17, 1989. In Professor Morehouse's opinion, environmental influence was important.

and delay or retard a person's rate of maturation.² Mussen advises that the

...environment may exert strong influences even on ...primarily genetically determined characteristics (sex, eye color, texture and color of skin and hair, size and shape of face, relative height and weight, and dimensions of hand). For example, the American-born children of Jewish and Japanese immigrants grow taller and weigh more than their parents or their brothers and sisters born abroad. Children of the present generation [1963] in the United States and other Western countries are taller and heavier, and grow more rapidly, than children of earlier generations. Maximum height is now attained two years earlier than it was two or three generations ago. All these data suggest that physique and rate of growth are influenced by environmental factors, especially those related to nutrition and living conditions.³

The first "environment" is that of the prenatal stage when the fetus is in the womb. A change in a mother's health (i.e., nutritional habits) could affect the unborn child. Scott, in his book, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, advises that,

...prenatal development proceeds under the general control of three organized systems: the heredity of the individual, the egg and the composition of its contents, and the prenatal environment produced by the mother. Disturbances in any one of these systems can produce variations whenever they occur in the course of development, and hereditary and environmental factors can operate to produce such disturbances at any time in the prenatal existence.⁴

²Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 30.

³Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 30.

⁴Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, p. 59.

In an October 14, 1988 Science article entitled "Acetaldehyde Production and Transfer by the Perfused Human Placental Cotyledon," Peter Karl and fellow authors state that "ethanol ingestion during pregnancy may result in fetal injury, including congenital anomalies, intrauterine growth retardation, and mental deficiency."⁵

In K.A. Fackelmann's April 1989 Science News article entitled "Cocaine Mothers Imperil Babies' Brains," Fackelmann relates that "babies born to women who used cocaine during their first trimester of pregnancy may suffer subtle neurological damage, a finding that raises questions about whether these children will develop learning disabilities later in life."⁶ Fackelmann relates that,

Barry Zuckerman of the Boston University School of Medicine and his colleagues studied 1226 new mothers and found that 27 percent used marijuana sometime during pregnancy and 18 percent used cocaine. The researchers relied on interviews and drug tests to determine drug use Infants exposed to marijuana weighed an average of 79 grams less and were 0.5 centimeter shorter than babies born to women who had not used drugs.... Babies born to women who used cocaine weighed 93 grams less and were 0.7 centimeter shorter than control infants.⁷

⁵Peter I. Karl et al., "Acetaldehyde Production and Transfer by the Perfused Human Placental Cotyledon," Science, October 14, 1988, p. 273. Karl et al., obtained information from S.K. Carren and D.W. Smith, New England Journal of Medicine, Vol. 298, p. 1063 (1978), and H.L. Rosett and L. Weiner, Annual Review of Medicine, Vol. 36, p. 73 (1985).

⁶K.A. Fackelmann, "Cocaine Mothers Imperil Babies' Brains," Science News, April 1, 1989, p. 108.

⁷Fackelmann, "Cocaine Mothers Imperil Babies' Brains," p. 108.

Another important developmental stage is when a child makes his first social relationships which usually is with the mother between approximately five weeks to seven months old. The baby still has contact, however, with the physical environment (i.e., heat and cold, pressure and pain, light and dark, sound and silence).⁸ The bonds established in the baby's physical and personal environment shape the cornerstone for future bonding and attachment.

McNeil, in his book, The Concept of Human Development, states that "the mother-child pair has throughout history been considered a fundamental unit in human survival, one vital for human health. It has been viewed as particularly crucial in the healthy growth of human personality."⁹ Nussen asserts that,

...in one classic study, the personalities, attitudes, and social behavior of delinquents were compared with those of their own brothers and sisters who were not delinquents. Of the two groups, more of the former were emotionally unstable, manifested symptoms of neuroses, anxiety and tension, and suffered from profound feelings of inadequacy and inferiority....The most striking difference between the delinquents and their siblings involved their family relationships, however. An overwhelming percentage (over 90) of the delinquents, but only a few of the nondelinquents, were extremely discontented at home and disturbed because of upsetting experiences with their families. Most of them felt rejected by their parents, deprived, insecure, jealous of their siblings, uncomfortable about

⁸Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, pp. 69-70, 111.

⁹McNeil, The Concept of Human Development, p. 59.

family tensions, and parental misconduct, or thwarted in their needs for independence or self-expression.¹⁰

Any breaking of contact with individuals or surroundings of which a primary attachment has taken place is difficult, and an emotional experience. If this separation is a permanent one, then the difficulty increases. An example of this is when a loved one dies, or a divorce takes place.¹¹ It is therefore imperative that children are loved, and a strong parental bond made while they are young, directing any recognized genetically-inherited propensities in wholesome channels.

Children learn from their parents and in many instances mimic their actions and reactions. Confusion arises when the child's environmentally learned response is in conflict with an opposite genetically-inherited reaction.

The pattern of relative dominance and submission between husband and wife, for example, has a lasting effect on the child. If, for example, he learns that males are strong and females are weak, he learns a very fundamental lesson about what to expect from other males and females he will encounter throughout his life.¹²

Mussen explains that,

...clinical studies show that home atmosphere is...related to general emotional adjustment. Children between the ages of four and six from democratic homes are more stable, less argumentative, more sensitive to praise and

¹⁰Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 99.

¹¹Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, pp. 75-76.

¹²McNeil, The Concept of Human Development, p. 72.

blame, more socially successful, and more considerate than children from authoritarian homes.¹³

Mussen further opines that the child's first social learning and experiences at home with his family are critical...in determining the child's expectations of other individuals.¹⁴

Deborah Galvin in her publication, "Female Terrorist: A Socio-Psychological Perspective," relates that,

...many suggest that women are made culturally dependent from childhood....In terrorism...the woman enters with less expected of her and an almost parental concern on the part of males as to her ability to perform, especially in difficult situations....In addition, the woman needs to deal with her own feelings of inadequacy in the matter of operational tactics. It is not easy to play as an equal partner in a male game while ever conscious of traits assigned to her from early childhood, such as unreliability; dependency; weakness; inferiority; softness; vacillation; intuition; passivity, rather than strength; independence and competence, all of which are taken for granted (often on the shakiest evidence) in males.¹⁵

Galvin also talks of terrorist women who are "counterphobic," those that need to feel superior or in control. She states that these women often had lonely childhoods and are

¹³Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 72.

¹⁴Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 66.

¹⁵Galvin, "Female Terrorist: A Socio-Psychological Perspective," Behavioral Sciences and the Law, p. 29. (Galvin obtained data from L.B. Gelb, "Masculinity-femininity: A Study in Imposed Inequality," in J.B. Miller [Ed.], Psychoanalysis and Women (Baltimore: Penguin Books, 1983), p. 365.)

noted for wearing a "false mask of self-sufficiency" and refusal to lean on men.¹⁶

A famous case of isolationism is that of Kasper Hauser, the "Nuremberg boy." He was

...discovered wandering in the streets as a young adult in the year 1928. He could at first speak little more than his own name but later reported that he had been kept in a dungeon without companions and that his only play things were a toy dog and two hobbyhorses. He was therefore not only a social isolate but also the product of rearing in a barren environment. No information was available as to how early he was placed in isolation, and all that can be said is that he showed considerable degree of recovery from its effects.¹⁷

Thus, we see that childhood years are certainly impressionable and important ones.

Peer influence can also be a strong influence during childhood. Mussen asserts that,

...from roughly ages seven to 12, youngsters are strongly concerned with their gang, an informal group with a fairly rapid turnover in membership. Later on, between the ages of ten and 14, highly structured groups--groups with formal organization and membership requirements, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts--assume greater importance, especially among middle-class children....The social relationships of these years may have far-reaching influences. The child's choice of extracurricular games, reading, movies, radio and television programs, are undoubtedly swayed by his peers' opinions and suggestions. These media, in turn, may provide new identification models and new evaluations of certain types of values, attitudes, characteristics and behavior.¹⁸

¹⁶Galvin, "Female Terrorism: A Socio-Psychological Perspective," p. 30.

¹⁷Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, p. 70.

¹⁸Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 90.

Touifexis states concerning the rise in violent crime perpetuated by youth, that

...violent youths frequently have neurological problems and learning disorders, many of which result from brain injuries inflicted in beatings by parents and others.... Society has generally been able to control and channel aggressive impulses through its basic institutions--home, schools and church. But these moral pillars are crumbling....Too many children are growing up in families headed by one overburdened parent, usually the mother. Even when two parents are present, both often have demanding jobs and are absorbed in their own concerns. Sometimes the parents are strung out on alcohol or drugs. The result is that children do not get the nurturing, guidance or supervision necessary to instill a set of values and a proper code of behavior....Above all, parents should take a long hard look in the mirror. The values of today's youth are merely magnified reflections of the values of their elders. Parents should remember the words of the father in Harry Chapin's song, Cat's in the Cradle, when he comes to a sudden realization about his insensitive, uncaring son: He'd grown up just like me. My boy was just like me.¹⁹

Stone and Church, in their book, Childhood and Adolescence: A Psychology of the Growing Person, purport that if a child forms the "right kind" of habits immediately after birth, these habits will be useful for the rest of the child's life.²⁰

McNeil, in his book, The Concept of Human Development, relates that,

...psychological development is immersed in the family, the culture, and significant others, who will most greatly shape the adult form we will assume. If the child is

¹⁹Anastasia Touifexis, "Our Violent Kids," Time, June 12, 1989, pp. 55-58.

²⁰Laurence J. Stone and Joseph Church, Childhood and Adolescence: A Psychology of the Growing Person, p. 119. Authors obtained data from U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Infant Care, 1938 Edition, p. 3.

crippled psychologically, early in life, the whole socialization process becomes distorted; and the normally expected ages and stages of social growth fail to appear according to the accustomed schedule.²¹

Critical periods of learning are talked about by Stone and Church. They state that,

...maturation, whether proceeding naturally in the course of growth or produced by psychologically meaningful stimulation, defines the beginning of a period of readiness, [and that] such periods may also have an end. That is, maturation may bring critical or sensitive periods, analogous to those of prenatal development, during which a given function is most responsive to cultivation, trauma, neglect. We do not know enough about what brings a critical period to an end, whether some maturational change or a conflicting bit of learning, or just what the consequences are of delaying learning beyond the end of a critical period. We do know or suspect a few things. Such evidence as we have suggests that delaying the formation of close social attachments much beyond the age of six months may impair the baby's ability to form such attachments. There is good experimental evidence that puppies kept from human contact during their first nine to 14 weeks of life are permanently unable to become attached to human beings.²²

Jerry Hirsch in his edited book, Behavior-Genetic Analysis, also talks of a sensitive period, that of animals and insects. He states that,

...animal development can, however, be altered by extreme environmental influences. In insects, near-lethal heat shocks have been used in most experiments; in mice, because of the fact that development proceeds in the uterus, drugs or ionizing radiation is more effective. In all the experiments it was found that the nature of the abnormalities induced by the environmental factor is

²¹McNeil, The Concept of Human Development, p. 63.

²²Stone and Church, Childhood and Adolescence: A Psychology of the Growing Person, p. 207. Authors obtained information concerning experimental evidence on puppies from D.G. Freedman, J.A. King, and O. Elliot, "Critical Period in the Social Development of Dogs," Science, 1961, Vol. 133, p. 1016.

dependent on the time at which the environmental agent acts. The period of time at which the particular phenotypic character can be influenced by an environmental agent is designated as its **sensitive period**. The sensitive period for a particular character has a beginning and an end; neither before nor after the sensitive period can the character be influenced by environmental conditions. For example, a sensitive period for the wing pattern of butterflies and moths exists in the early pupal period; it can even be subdivided into sensitive periods for different pattern elements which, however, may overlap each other in time.²³

An example of the impressionability of childhood years is demonstrated by a study done by Jones and Jones in 1928.²⁴ McNeil cites this study in his book, The Concept of Human Development, relating that 51 children and 90 adults were confronted with a harmless,

...but, in the view of the average person, repulsive snake. The very young children up to the age of two years, showed no fear at all of the snake; children three or three and a half years of age showed a certain amount of caution; clear-cut and definite fear behavior occurred much more often after the age of four years and, interestingly, was much more pronounced in adults than in children. Thus, [according to McNeil] the emotion of fear is learned; it varies in form and intensity of expression with age and experience with objects capable of evoking fear; and it is closely tied to language and symbols.²⁵

This example, in addition to demonstrating the impressionability of early childhood, also tends to support those who purport that behavior is learned and not inherited.

Another example that could be presented by environmentalists is the incredible progress made by math students at

²³Hirsch, Behavior-Genetic Analysis, p. 128.

²⁴H.E. Jones and March C. Jones, "Fear," Children's Education, 1928, Vol. 5, pp. 136-143.

²⁵McNeil, The concept of Human Development, p. 48.

Garfield High School, Los Angeles, California between 1982-1986. Through the efforts of Jaime A. Escalante, a dedicated math teacher, an unprecedented 18 students took and passed the Advanced Placement Calculus Exam in 1982. Every subsequent year more and more students passed the exam with 87 students passing the exam in 1987. The popular motion picture film "Stand and Deliver" depicts this true story of the first class to pass the exam.²⁶ Environmentalists would probably attribute an improvement in the learning environment to the success of the students. They might possibly say that this case demonstrates that inherited intelligence (if there is such a thing) was not a factor because all students passed the advanced exam. All students would have "inherited" different levels of intelligence and only through increased expectations by their teacher and hard work by the students was success achieved. Those advocating genetic inheritance of intelligence might differ, stating that the students could have inherited the propensity for greater intellectual achievement, and not until the environment changed (i.e., new teacher), were these capabilities realized. In either case, the importance of environment was certainly apparent.

As a child, one physically matures very rapidly. A child's body grows quickly and proper nutrition plays a

²⁶Motion Picture Film, "Stand and Deliver," Copyright Warner Bros., Inc., 1988.

vital role in that growth. J. Raloff, in his March 4, 1989 Science News article entitled, "Pesticide/food Risk Greatest Under Age 6," advised that,

U.S. adults face a cancer risk from pesticides on the fruits and vegetables they ate as children--a threat roughly 240 times higher than the one-in-a-million risk usually deemed unacceptable by the Environmental Protection Agency....The two-year study concludes that because fruit makes up so much of a preschooler's diet and is the food most likely to harbor toxic pesticide residues, more than half an individual's lifetime cancer risk from fruit is typically acquired before age 6.²⁷

Even the growth process can be altered through environmental influences. For example,

...growth-hormone deficiency afflicts about one in every 5000 infants in the United States. Untreated, these children will grow up to be seven to ten inches shorter than normal. Physicians currently [April 1989] treat the deficiency by injecting genetically engineered growth hormone every few days for up to ten years during a child's critical growth period.²⁸

Mussen, in his book, The Psychological Development of The Child, states the importance of heredity and environment to human development. He gives an example of identical twins and states that,

...despite being reared in vastly different environments, identical twins were more alike in intelligence, as tested, than fraternal twins who had been raised in the same environment. Obviously, heredity is a major determinant of intelligence. Even among the identical twins, however, environmental variables had significant impacts. The greater the differences in their

²⁷J. Raloff, "Pesticide/food Risk Greatest Under Age 6," Science, March 4, 1989, p. 133.

²⁸Ivan Amato and Janet Raloff, "Pediatric Peptide Spurs Growth Hormone," Science News, April 22, 1989, p. 252. Note: Both authors were reporting from Dallas, Texas at the American Chemical Society's spring national meeting.

environmental experiences, the more divergent were the identical twins.²⁹

Mussen also purports that scores on intelligence tests taken during an individual's early school years are "good predictors of grammar school grades in reading, arithmetic, composition, spelling, and social studies, and they are also fairly good predictors of success in high school, college, and various occupations."³⁰ Scott espouses two principles concerning childhood years. He states that first a young child is more responsive to environmental stimuli than in later life, and second, the kind of early experience the child undergoes will determine the kinds of stimuli to which he becomes habituated.³¹ An example of the habituation of environmental stimuli is given by Harvard anthropologist Clyde Kluckhohn. Mr. Kluckhohn relates the following story:

Some years ago I met in New York City a young man who did not speak a word of English and was obviously bewildered by American ways. By "blood" he was as American as you or I, for his parents had gone from Indiana to China as missionaries. Orphaned in infancy, he was reared by a Chinese family in a remote village. All who met him found him more Chinese than American. The facts of his blue eyes and light hair were less impressive than a Chinese style of gait, Chinese arm and hand movements, Chinese facial expressions, and Chinese modes of thought. The

²⁹Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, pp. 49-50.

³⁰Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 48.

³¹Scott, Early Experience and the Organization of Behavior, p. 134.

biological heritage was American, but the cultural training had been Chinese.³²

When you know the childhood upbringing and influences of an individual, you can understand that individual better. When you couple possible genetic transfer to your investigation, you will know the individual well. Environmental upbringing is certainly a second important part of the "target dossier" discussed in Chapter I. This "environmental" section should contain information concerning the subject's environmental upbringing to include prenatal (i.e., did the mother use drugs); postnatal, early childhood, and late childhood influences. In these first three chapters we have talked about genetic and environmental influences affecting people in general. The next three chapters will focus on case studies of "proponents of terror," namely, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as "Carlos."

³²Mussen, The Psychological Development of the Child, p. 62.

IV. ADOLF HITLER: PROPONENT OF TERROR, GENETIC AND CHILDHOOD INFLUENCES

Many studies have been done on Adolf Hitler, attempting to explain who he was and what he was. The purpose of this chapter is to offer one possible explanation: Adolf Hitler was a product of genetic inheritance and childhood influences. I will show similarities between Adolf Hitler and his parents that suggest the importance of genetics and will then discuss the importance of Adolf Hitler's childhood environment.

A. BEHAVIORAL SIMILARITIES

Adolf Hitler may have appeared to be an unpredictable person. However, if one had studied the character and make-up of his parents, Alois and Klara Hitler, one would have seen similarities of action and character in their son Adolf. To know Adolf Hitler one must know his parents and his relationship with them.

Hitler did have a capacity to love similar to that of his mother. According to Dr. Bloch who treated Adolf's mother when she was dying of breast cancer, her life centered around her children, particularly Adolf who was her pet.¹ Adolf loved his mother and her death was a shocking experience as was the death of his brother Edmund when Adolf

¹Walter Langer, The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report (New York: Basic Books Inc., 1982), p. 105.

was ten, and the death of his father when he was 13. I would characterize the death of his mother as the critical experience in his life.

She died on December 21, 1907 and was buried [in a Catholic cemetery in Leonding] on Christmas Eve. To preserve a last impression, he sketched her on her death-bed. Adolf, according to Dr. Bloch, was completely broken: "In all my career I have never seen anyone so prostrate with grief as Adolf Hitler." Although his sisters came to Dr. Bloch a few days after the funeral and expressed themselves fully, Adolf remained silent. As the little group left, he said: "I shall be grateful to you forever." After the funeral he stood at her grave for a long time after the sisters had left. The bottom had obviously fallen out of his world. Tears came into Dr. Bloch's eyes as he described the tragic scene.²

Adolf, like his mother, had few friends. She, however, did keep in contact with family members and was devoted to the Catholic faith and going to Church.³

Hitler, like his father, was discontented with non-Germans in positions of influence. Bradley Smith, in his book, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood and Youth, states of Alois that "his opposition to 'clericalism' was intense, but not less so than his devotion to the ideal of a centralized imperial administration, exclusively German in language and largely German in personnel."⁴ Adolf had similar views. He

²Langer, The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report, p. 116.

³Bradley Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth (Stanford: The Hoover Institution On War, Revolution and Peace, 1967), p. 42.

⁴Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, p. 59.

...detested the Hapsburg Empire, of which he was a subject, because its rulers, Germans though they were, had accorded political equality to the empire's non-Germans--Poles, Serbs, Croats, Hungarians, Italians, Slovenes, and Czechs--whom the German Austrians had once dominated.⁵

It is interesting that Adolf claims in his later years that his "critical attitude toward the Church originated at the time when he began to share his father's view of certain of its aspects...."⁶ Although he was raised a Catholic and received Catholic communion during the First World War, he gave up the faith after the war.⁷

It is the opinion of this author that Adolf inherited some aggressive genetic factors from his father that transformed themselves into a propensity to lead. His father had been a "leader" in the Customs' "business" for many years and the parallel aggressive tendencies that surrounded his father in the home also probably contributed environmentally to Hitler's strongly-opinionated nature.

Adolf Hitler enjoyed, like his father, associating with attractive women. Instead of attempting to assassinate Adolf Hitler with a bomb in the summer of 1944, could not the conspirators have hired an attractive female assassin and plotted her access to the "inner circle" and a

⁵Special Report on World War II, U.S. News & World Report, August 28-September 4, 1989, p. 38.

⁶Werner Maser, Hitler: Legend, Myth & Reality (New York: Harper & Row, 1973), p. 29.

⁷Maser, Hitler: Legend, Myth & Reality, p. 29.

subsequent assassination possibly at the Berghof, his mountain retreat?

This well-developed character trait of Hitler similar to his father's in seeking the company of attractive women, was a product of some combination of genetic inheritance and early environment. The trait was well-developed by the mid-1920s, and continued to the end of his life but was not exploited by the July 1944 conspirators. Possible knowledge of prior "tempestuous" marriage experiences of his father might have been instrumental in keeping Adolf from marrying until the end. Alois's marriage life had consisted of

...three wives, seven or possibly eight children, one divorce, at least one birth and possibly two before marriage, two directly after the wedding, one wife 13 years older than himself and another 23 years younger, one the daughter of a superior, one a waitress, and the third [Adolf's mother] a servant and his foster daughter.⁸

After 1932, Eva Braun was Adolf's mistress. He eventually married her in the Berlin "Bunker" on April 29, 1945. However, he did not show much affection toward Eva. "In 1935 Eva wrote of her relationship with Hitler, 'he needs me only for certain purposes.'...To the Fuhrer, Eva was--as Hoffman observed--'just an attractive little thing in whom he found the type of relaxation and repose he sought.'"⁹ This is not to say that Hitler was not "normal" and did not

⁸Langer, The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report, p. 104.

⁹Robert Herzstein, The Nazis (Alexandria, Virginia: Time Life Books, 1980), p. 76.

like women. Frau Schaub, the wife of Hitler's adjutant said this of him:

These rumors that Hitler was supposed to be abnormal over women are false. As the wife of the man who was Hitler's adjutant for 20 years, I had numerous occasions to watch him in private and when in the company of ladies. I can assure you that he was definitely a very normal man. He loved women and loved to be in the presence of feminine beauty. I know all about the relationship between him and Eva Braun, from 1931 right up to the end. And I also know about many other love affairs.¹⁰

Eva Braun wrote in her diary of Hitler's neglect and of her unhappiness. She consoled herself by feeling proud she was the mistress of the world's greatest man.¹¹

Adolf's mother, too, had consoled herself after her wedding when Alois had returned to work shortly after eating a meal. Klara later "wistfully recalled, 'My husband was already on duty again.'¹²

Just as Alois would escape the noisiness of a house full of children and go to a tavern, Adolf too would periodically escape in his mind to his beloved Linz, city of his youth. Although he had been born in Braunau and had moved about before coming to Linz, he still considered Linz his home. He had lived in Leonding-Linz with his mother after his

¹⁰The Secret Life of Adolf Hitler. Based on the television documentary film produced for WPIX, Inc., by William Cooper Jr., and Walter Engels. Text adapted from Eldorous Dayton's television script. New York: The Citadel Press, 1960. Pages are unnumbered.

¹¹Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

¹²John Toland, Adolf Hitler (New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1976), p. 6.

father died and before he, [Adolf], moved to Vienna five years later. Besides having fond memories of Linz, Hitler associated it as the place where his mother and father were buried in the Catholic cemetery in suburban Leonding. One of Hitler's secretaries, speaking after the war, advised,

Even in March of 1945, I have seen Hitler stand for endless periods in front of a wood model representing the rebuilding and extension of the city of Linz. In such moments Hitler forgot the war; he lost the marks of tiredness, and for hours he told us of the detailed changes that he planned to make in his home city.¹³

Adolf heard his father talk of how the peasants took their hats off to him because of his experience in Vienna. He heard his father talk of how "the State towers high above the people."¹⁴ He knew of his father's pride in wearing his uniform and his insistence on being addressed by the townsfolk as Herr Oberoffizial.¹⁵ Adolf also would demand respect as he progressed in life. He, too, would enjoy attention; would pride himself in a spotless uniform; and would promulgate the submission of the people to the glory of the "State."

Alois held himself in high esteem as a public official regardless of how the "local" people felt about him. He

¹³Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, p. 62.

¹⁴Ludwig Wagner, and Charlotte La Rue, trans., Hitler: Man of Strife (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1942), p. 24.

¹⁵Langer, The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report, p. 104.

knew what he had to do and did it unsympathetically, strictly, exactly, and pedantically, as a supervisor once described his actions.¹⁶ Adolf also portrayed these characteristics as German Chancellor and Fuhrer. Concerning his "blood purge" of June 30, 1934, Adolf exclaimed: "If anyone reproaches me and asks why I did not resort to the regular courts of justice, then I say this: In this hour I was responsible for the fate of the German People."¹⁷

Adolf, this "maker of war," demanded those around him be obedient and trustworthy. He, however, could not be trusted. Like his father, he was unsympathetic to those who opposed his designs. His territorial conquests were unparalleled in the 20th century, although in a speech on September 26, 1938 at the Sports Palace in Berlin, he vowed that Czechoslovakia was "the last territorial claim which I have to make in Europe."¹⁸ He broke that vow when he invaded Poland a year later.

Alois, in his career, always wanted to do more and receive higher posts and recognition. Adolf too had the capability to work hard like his father and showed this capability during his elementary school days and later when writing his book Mein Kampf while serving a prison sentence

¹⁶Toland, Adolf Hitler, p. 7.

¹⁷Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

¹⁸Francis Loewenheim, Hitler, Chamberlain, and The Munich Crisis (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1965), p. 47.

in his early political career. Julius Schaub, a fellow prisoner at Landsberg with Adolf, stated, "while we were prisoners together at Landsberg, Adolf Hitler spent the mornings working on his book Mein Kampf. In the evening, after supper, when we assembled, he used to read us several chapters from the book."¹⁹

When Adolf didn't want to work, and wanted leisure time to mill about (precisely what his father did after his early retirement), he would do as he pleased. One can see this "laziness" during Adolf's late teenage life in Vienna where he lived off a pension provided by the Austrian government (as a result of being an "orphan") and not primarily off postcards he drew in the following years after his pension stopped.

Dedication to mission was both apparent in Alois and Klara Hitler--Alois to his job as Customs Official, and Klara to her mission as a mother and wife. Adolf also had a strong will when he decided upon something that was important to him.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

Hitler's childhood was a critical, "sensitive" period. During these years he solidified his beliefs and character as he responded with his genetic inheritance to the environment around him. Adolf Hitler was born on April 20, 1889,

¹⁹Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

in the Austrian city of Braunau on the Bavarian frontier. He did well in elementary school. When he went to secondary school, however, he did poorly. During elementary school he was a "leader of a small gang" whereas in secondary school he was "just a modest and insignificant average."²⁰

The only recorded entries this author could find of Adolf Hitler getting drunk were on two occasions: once in 1904 after receiving an unsatisfactory report card which he used as toilet paper and as a result of which he had to request another, and in 1905 after passing an examination he had to retake.²¹ John Toland, in his book, Adolf Hitler, states that this occurrence (1905) was "the first and last time he got drunk."²² Possibly seeing his father come home drunk and having to "fetch" him from the tavern on more than one occasion turned him against alcoholic drink for the remainder of his life.

It was not always a tempestuous relationship with his father. For one year between the age of five and six, Alois did not live at home. He was transferred to Linz as a customs official and rejoined the family on a permanent basis after the year period. During his father's absence,

²⁰Helmut Heiber, Adolf Hitler: A Short Biography (London: Oswald Wolff Limited, 1961), p. 11.

²¹Joachim Fest, Hitler (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc., 1974), p. 20. Also, Toland, Adolf Hitler, p. 19.

²²Toland, Adolf Hitler, p. 19.

Adolf did not have to restrain himself as when his father was around and could play his games of cowboys and indians (his favorites) in the countryside and was able to assert himself at home, displaying "the first signs of consuming anger when he did not get his way."²³

This wanting "to get away from it all," is evident in his later life in his desire to periodically "escape." He would go to his semi-secret retreat 3300 feet above the village of Berchtesgaden near the Austrian border. Adolf said, "only here...could he breathe and think--and live!"²⁴ It is interesting that his favorite childhood game was one where the goal was liberation of one side over the other through war, a game he played as an adult, only with different actors.

By the time Adolf was seven, there were five children at home. Alois Hitler had retired when Adolf was four and Alois did not have very much tolerance for the children. He was dictatorial and demanded obedience. Alois's best friend in Leonding, Josef Mayerhofer, said that he was strict with the family, but "never touched Adolf, rather having more bark than bite."²⁵

²³Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, pp. 54-55. Information for this paragraph obtained from this source.

²⁴Herzstein, The Nazis, p. 72.

²⁵Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, p. 63.

This testimony, however, contradicts the story of Alois beating Alois Jr., and holding him against a tree until he lost consciousness, and stories relating to Adolf getting whipped. "The violence, according to Alois Jr., extended even to the docile Klara...."²⁶

Stefan Kanfer, in his August 29, 1989 Time article on Adolf Hitler, stated that "although Alois was nominally a Roman Catholic, he placed his faith in the whip."²⁷ Kanfer also relates that Adolf would frequently visit in a suburb of Munich, an elderly widow named Carola Hoffmann who did his laundry and "indulged his sweet tooth." Kanfer relates that "when Frau Hoffmann offered to buy him a gift, he suggested a rhinoceros-hide dog whip like the one Alois had used long ago."²⁸ Adolf grew up confronting his father as Adolf's own independent will, which was similar to his father's, grew stronger. This was the paternal home atmosphere that Adolf had to deal with until his father suddenly died at a tavern in Leonding when Adolf was 13 years old.

Alois had wanted Adolf to become a government official, like himself. Adolf did not want anything to do with his

²⁶Toland, Adolf Hitler, p. 9.

²⁷Stefan Kanfer, "Architect of Evil: How Adolf Hitler Mesmerized a Nation--and Terrorized a World," Time, August 29, 1989, p. 48.

²⁸Kandfer, "Architect of Evil: How Adolf Hitler Mesmerized a Nation--and Terrorized a World," p. 49.

father's vocation but wanted to be an artist. Adolf claims that he purposely did poorly in secondary school so his father would give up his desire that Adolf follow in his footsteps. Adolf states, "I believed...that once my father saw how little progress I was making at the Realschule, he would let me devote myself to my dream, whether he liked it or not."²⁹

Hitler stated that it was in secondary school when he became a "nationalist" and that this was an important political step for him.³⁰ "Together with most of the boys in his class, he supported the cause of German rights and privileges, seizing every opportunity to proclaim devotion to the cause of 'Germandom'."³¹

Adolf Hitler classified his days in Vienna (late teens) as the period which solidified his beliefs. He recalled, during those days,

...whenever I went, I began to see Jews, and the more I saw, the more sharply they became distinguished in my eyes from the rest of humanity. Was there any form of filth or profligacy, particularly in cultural life, without at least one Jew involved in it? If you cut even cautiously

²⁹Maser, Hitler: Legend, Myth & Reality, p. 31.

³⁰Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, p. 80. Author obtained information from Adolf Hitler's book, Mein Kampf, p. 10.

³¹Smith, Adolf Hitler: His Family, Childhood, and Youth, p. 80. Author obtained information from Heinz A. Heinz's book, Germany's Hitler (London, Hurst and Blackett, 1934), pp. 28-29; and Hitler's Mein Kampf, pp. 12-13.

into such an abscess, you found, like a maggot, in a rotting body, often dazzled by the sudden light--a kike!³²

While Adolf was in Vienna in these teenage years, Adolf's mother became very ill. While Klara lay dying, Adolf vented his frustrations to his friend, August Kubicek. August describes what happened:

One morning...Adolf suddenly appeared in the room. He looked terrible. His face was so pale as to be almost transparent, his eyes were dull and his voice hoarse. I felt that a storm of suffering must be hiding behind his icy demeanour. He gave me the impression that he was fighting for life against a hostile fate....His eyes blazed, his temper flared up. 'Incurable--what do they mean by that?' he screamed. 'Not that the malady is incurable, but that the doctors aren't capable of curing it. My mother isn't even old. Forty-seven isn't an age where you give up hope. But as soon as the doctors can't do anything, they call it incurable.'...I was familiar with my friend's habit of turning everything he came across into a problem. But never had he spoken with such bitterness, with such passion as now.³³

This author feels that after his mother's death, Adolf became even more resentful that his mother could not be saved, and his nationalist views became ever more focused on the ills of "international Jewry." The one person Adolf really loved had been taken from him. He wanted to strike out at something, and "the Jews" were a convenient target. To one Jew, however, Adolf did not keep his promise of gratitude. Dr. Bloch stated in 1940: "Favors

³²Herzstein, The Nazis, pp. 30-31.

³³Richard Koenigsberg, Hitler's Ideology: A Study in Psychoanalytic Sociology (New York: The Library of Social Science, 1975), pp. 55-57. Information taken by Koenigsberg from: A. Kubicek, Young Hitler: The Story of Our Friendship (London: Allan Wingate, 1954), p. 82.

were granted to me which I feel were accorded no other Jew in all Germany or Austria."³⁴

Adolf Hitler was weaned on talk from his father on the superiority of the State. At 12, Adolf was already "entranced" with the heroic figures of German mythology and attended his first Wagnerian opera at the Linz Opera house. The opera he saw was Lohengrin which, in his words, "captivated him at once." John Toland, in his book, Hitler, states that,

...inspirational words--such as those of King Henry to his knights--wakened in him the primal urge of race and nationalism: 'Let the Reich's enemy now appear. We're well prepared to see him near. From his Eastern desert plain he'll never dare to stir again! The German sword for German land! Thus will the Reich in vigor stand!'³⁵

This adulation of war and nationalism is seen later when Adolf, himself, fights in the German army during the First World War. Adolf wrote of this period:

The struggle of the year 1914 was forsooth, not forced on the masses, but desired by the whole people. To myself those hours came like a redemption from the vexatious experiences of my youth. Even to this day I am not ashamed to say that, in a transport of enthusiasm, I sank down on my knees and thanked Heaven from an overflowing heart.³⁶

A fellow soldier once said of Adolf:

We all cursed him and found him intolerable. There was this white crow among us that didn't go along with us when

³⁴Toland, Adolf Hitler, pp. 28-29.

³⁵Toland, Adolf Hitler, p. 15 (information concerning mythology and opera).

³⁶Langer, The Mind of Adolf Hitler: The Secret Wartime Report, p. 121.

we damned the war to hell. It was actually the war that interested him, not his own life as a soldier. News came of Hindenburg's great victory over the Russians, he [Adolf] wrote home:--'three cheers...long live our great marshal...'--and he did not add, as most of them would have done: 'And now let's hope that the whole thing will be soon over, and in your next parcel, please send some salami....'³⁷

Hitler "made war" on everyone and everything that did not conform to his views. He ousted the Communists from the Reichstag after the burning of the Reichstag on the night of February 27, 1933; he was responsible for the "blood purge" of 1934; and the strangulation on meathooks of eight conspirators who attempted to assassinate him on July 20, 1944. He stated, concerning the first eight conspirators to be executed formally: "I want them hung up like carcasses of meat." He also said that he would put the wives and children of the conspirators in concentration camps.³⁸

When Adolf Hitler was not in charge, his world collapsed. This can be seen when he went from primary school, where he was a leader of a "gang," to secondary school where he had no such station. In secondary school he refused to excel. In April 1945, he refused to exist. Julius Schuab, Hitler's aide-de-camp, states concerning his last days:

³⁷Konrad Heiden, Der Fuehrer: Hitler's Rise to Power (Cambridge: The Riverside Press, 1944), p. 84

³⁸Herzstein, The Nazis, pp. 198, 202. Information on "carcasses" and concentration camps obtained from this source.

Adolf Hitler's state of health got a lot worse, because of the setbacks at the front, especially after the battle of Stalingrad. He couldn't sleep, his nerves got worse, and he was forced to take medicine. But I must kill all those rumors--his brain was in order right up to his death.³⁹

Schaub writes of visiting Hitler while in the bunker:

I entered his bedroom in the bunker with him. On the table there was a 7.5 pistol. He went up to it. I got a terrible shock. He cocked the gun--but no, it wasn't the last hour yet. He was only making sure it was loaded. A few days later, the event took place which I thought was going to happen at that moment.⁴⁰

Hitler's personal pilot relates that,

...approximately one-half to three-quarters of an hour before Hitler's death on the 30th of April, he sent for me. When I reported, he took both my hands in his and said to me, 'Bauer...I make you personally responsible for burning the corpses of my wife and me. The second is, see to it that Bormann gets through to Doenitz. Doenitz will be my natural successor. I have given Bormann large numbers of orders and documents to take with him to Doenitz.'⁴¹

Perhaps reality had proven stronger to Adolf Hitler than his dreams when he finally committed suicide.

During primary school, Adolf Hitler experienced the confidence-building atmosphere of being a leader of a "gang" and doing well in school. Could his increased importance to his peers have been a factor for his success in primary school, both academically and possibly psychologically? Could not his decreased military importance in the world toward the end of the war have been a cause for his

³⁹Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

⁴⁰Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

⁴¹Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

irrationality and physical deterioration? Adolf's half-sister said of him: "When we children played together, my brother Adolf was always the leader. All the others did what he told them to do; they must have had an instinct that his will was stronger than theirs."⁴²

This "surrender" in 1945 was characteristic of the outcome of his childhood "cowboy and indian" games. Adolf's dilemma in 1945 was that he and his people were the vanquished indians or cowboys. One sees how frustrated he becomes with the fall of Stalingrad and subsequent military defeats. He was losing his stature as "the victorious warrior king" and his resources were depleted.

This "giving up" at the end was characteristic of his behavior when he "gave up" in secondary school because he did not want to do or be something (i.e., a Customs Official like his father). Like his father, who physically "committed suicide" through drink (perhaps because, in part, by not having the station and respect he once had), Adolf also physically deteriorated and committed suicide.

The importance of raising children in a wholesome environment and funneling inherited propensities for good, cannot be stressed enough. Ironically, Adolf Hitler, the "father" of the German state, saw the necessity to rear future children by teaching them from birth, the importance of Germany and a Reich that would last a thousand years.

⁴²Dayton, Secret Life of Adolf Hitler.

While German primary schools were vilifying the Jews, they were deifying Hitler. The students were taught to sing, 'Our Hitler is our Lord, who rules a brave new world.' One of the lessons explained how 'Jesus and Hitler were persecuted, but while Jesus was crucified, Hitler rose to the Chancellorship.'⁴³

There were similarities in character between Adolf Hitler and his parents, and known childhood environmental factors that help us to understand the man. Although the Allies, particularly the British, showed much ingenuity in the war in Europe, they did not exploit the immense advantages that an understanding of Hitler's father and mother and early environment might have given them in understanding Hitler's actions during the war.

⁴³Herzstein, The Nazis, p. 128.

V. BENITO MUSSOLINI: PROPONENT OF TERROR,
GENETIC AND CHILDHOOD INFLUENCES

It was unfortunate that Adolf Hitler did not write a detailed autobiography as Benito Mussolini had done. We would have known Adolf Hitler better through his detailed recollections of his parents and childhood upbringing. Mussolini's autobiography and other cited works contain pertinent information and demonstrate how Mussolini's genetic traits inherited from his parents and his childhood upbringing influenced the boy and then the man born in the village of Dovia, Predappio County, in northeast Italy on July 29, 1883.¹

A. GENETIC SIMILARITIES

Benito Mussolini, like Adolf Hitler, was a product of genetic inheritance and childhood influences. One can see similarities, not only behaviorally but also physically, between Benito Mussolini and his parents.

When one sees a picture of Benito Mussolini, especially during the Second World War, one could describe him as a heavy-set man. This is also true of Benito's father. Benito said of his father, "My father was a blacksmith--a heavy man with strong, large, fleshy hands."² Benito also

¹Benito Mussolini, My Autobiography (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1928), p. 1.

²Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 4-5.

had dark hair, like that of his mother and father. Although his father did not bald as much as Benito, Benito's father did have a high hairline like his son. Benito stated that he remembered his father "as a dark-haired, good-natured man, not slow to laugh, with strong features and steady eyes."³

The August 28, 1989 issue of Time contained an article entitled, "Recollections from Jaruzelski and Mussolini's Daughter." This article talked of a Time correspondent finding Edda Ciano Mussolini, Benito Mussolini's eldest daughter, in an apartment in Rome. The correspondent stated, "She has Il Duce's baleful glare and obviously still adores her father."⁴

Not only did Edda Mussolini look like her father, but also shared her father's respect and friendship for Adolf Hitler. In the September 4, 1989 issue of Time, in an article entitled "Remembrance: Edda Mussolini Ciano: A 'Very Polite Hitler'," Otto Friedrich quoted Edda as saying, "I didn't see the Fuhrer as the caricature he has since been made out to be. He was very polite and had a soft spot for me. I maintain that it was not the Fuhrer who wanted things to happen the way they did."⁵ Was this outlook a product of

³Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 4-5.

⁴Robert Miller, "Recollections form Jaruzelski and Mussolini's Daughter," Time, August 28, 1989, p. 4.

⁵Otto Friedrich, "Remembrance: Edda Mussolini Ciano: A 'Very Polite Hitler'," Time, September 4, 1989, p. 39.

genetic inheritance or environmental upbringing? It is hard to say, however, probably both had an influence on Edda's outlook. In Harper's Magazine February 1936 issue, John Gunther describes Edda as Mussolini's "living image."⁶

It is interesting to note that two of Benito's sons, Vittorio and Bruno, flew airplanes like their father. Gunther states that,

Mussolini's two elder sons, Vittorio, aged 19, and Bruno, 17, also went to the war as aviators. As if to give the two younger children Romano and Anna Maria, a touch of the air, Mussolini himself piloted the plane which gave them their first experience off the ground.⁷

Could love of flying have been a genetically inherited propensity or due to environmental upbringing? Again, maybe a bit of both.

In his autobiography, Benito Mussolini states that his "grandfather was a lieutenant in the National Guard."⁸ Another account regarding his grandfather states that "his grandfather, Luigi, was a lieutenant in the National Guard, who had also been interested in politics and had in his young days been jailed in a papal prison."⁹ Benito would

⁶John Gunther, "Mussolini," Harper's Magazine, February 1936, p. 301.

⁷Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 301.

⁸Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 3.

⁹Ivone Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power (New York: Hawthorn Books Inc., 1964), p. 18. Author obtained information from Mussolini's autobiography, p. 19 and from Megaro Gaudens book, Mussolini in the Making (London, 1939), p. 22.

also be a soldier, be interested in politics, and be jailed for his activities.

One knows that Benito enjoyed being a soldier by just seeing a picture of him sitting proudly on a horse in full uniform reviewing passing troops.¹⁰ Benito himself said,

I liked the life of a soldier. The sense of willing subordination suited my temperament. I was preceded by a reputation of being restless, a fire eater, a radical, a revolutionistIt was my opportunity to show serenity of spirit and strength of character.¹¹

Benito's character as a child was one of aggressiveness and nonconformity. Although he states that soldiering gave him a chance to "show serenity," this was only temporary. One cannot escape inherited tendencies.

Ivone Kirkpatrick, in his book, Mussolini: A Study in Power, describes that,

...already in his childhood Mussolini was a rebel, a restless, self-assertive pugnacious rebel. While he was still a baby he fiercely resisted the efforts of his mother and grandmother to teach him to speak. He was taken to a doctor who told the grandmother not to worry: 'He will speak. I have an idea that he will speak too much.'¹²

Christopher Hibbert, in his book, Benito Mussolini, states that the village children,

...remembered...that he was a dreamer as well as a fighter and that he would sit for hours on end watching the birds

¹⁰Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, UPI photograph, "Reviewing a Parade," following p. 288.

¹¹Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 15.

¹²Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 22. Author obtained information from Edvige Mussolini's book, Mio Fratello Benito (Florence, 1957), p. 12.

and gazing across the beautiful valley of his birth, with his chin in his hands, his enormous dark eyes beneath the bulging forehead wondering yet watchful. One day, he said to his mother, 'I shall astonish the world.'¹³

Benito's mother knew of Benito's potential. Speaking of her death in his autobiography, he states:

She might be alive now. She might have lived and enjoyed, with the power of her maternal instinct, my political success. It was not to be. But to me it is a comfort to feel that she, even now, can see me and help me in my labors with her unequalled love.¹⁴

At the age of nine, while attending the religious Salesian school at Faenza, Benito received assessments from his teachers that stated:

...His character is passionate and unruly; and he cannot adapt himself to the life of the school, and he is convinced, he has been sent as punishment. He wishes to leave at once in order to show that in order to live he must see, feel, and know life. He places himself in opposition to every rule and discipline of the school.¹⁵

Subsequent to this, while attending the Royal Normal School at Forlimpopolo [age 12], "on one occasion [he] organized a successful demonstration against the quality of bread served to the boys."¹⁶ His father, too, had been a nonconformist to existing political "norms" during his lifetime.

¹³Christopher Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography (New York: Longmans, Green and Co. Inc., 1962), p. 5.

¹⁴Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 17.

¹⁵Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 25. Author obtained information from Ivon de Begnac's book, Vita di Mussolini (Milan, 1936), pp. 312-313.

¹⁶Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 26.

Benito, while a journalist in Vienna states,

One day I wrote an article maintaining that the Italian border was not at Ala, the little town which in those days stood on the old frontier between our kingdom and the old Austria. Whereupon I was expelled from Austria by the Imperial and Royal Government of Vienna. I was becoming used to expulsions.¹⁷

Benito's dad also wrote articles. A reader can glean similarities between Benito and his father Alessandro, in the following passages which describe Alessandro's actions:

He established a local branch of the International [Socialist organization], drafted Socialist manifestoes, wrote articles in Socialist journals, addressed meetings, attacked the bourgeoisie and the Church, played an active role in local government, and never ceased so long as breath remained in him to profess the doctrine of international socialism....For all his fierce anticlericalism and militant socialism Alessandro was a man not without compassion. The afflictions of the masses, their poverty, their inadequate nourishment, unemployment, and the social conditions which forced them to emigrate, all moved him to constant protest.¹⁸

Like his father, Benito was strong-willed and politically minded. Benito says that his father's "heart and mind were always filled and pulsing with socialistic theories" and that he and his father "became much more knit together by common interests" as his mind and body approached maturity.¹⁹ Reflecting on his father's death, Benito states, "He was only 57. Nearly 40 of those years had been spent in politics. His was a rectangular mind, a

¹⁷Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 17.

¹⁸Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 18.

¹⁹Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 3, 9.

wise spirit, and a generous heart....He had been in prison for his ideas."²⁰

Benito, too, would run into trouble with authorities because of his political viewpoints. While a young student in Switzerland, he states, "Between one lesson and another I took part in political gatherings. I made speeches. Some intemperance in my words made me undesirable to the Swiss authorities. They expelled me from two cantons."²¹ Benito would go on to acquire an arrest record totaling 11 charged offenses in Italy and Switzerland.²²

Benito, like his father, was a man of action. His father would not have gone to prison if he had not been a man of strong will and action. Gunther, in his 1936 Harper's Magazine article, stated that Benito was "overwhelmingly a man of action. The single episode that amazed him most about the 30th of June in Germany was that Hitler consumed five hours talking to a man (Roehm) who was potentially a traitor."²³

Benito states that his "father had acquired an increasing reputation for his moral and political integrity."²⁴ Could not Benito have inherited this love for

²⁰Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 18.

²¹Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 14.

²²Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 297.

²³Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 304.

²⁴Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 11.

politics from his father? Did Benito have political integrity like his father? In his autobiography, Benito states,

In politics I never gained a penny. I detest those who live life like parasites, sucking away at the edges of social struggles. I hate men who grow rich in politics. I knew hunger--stark hunger--in those days [as a young man in Switzerland]. But I never bent myself to ask for loans and I never tried to inspire pity of those around me, nor of my own political companions. I reduced my needs to a minimum and that minimum--and sometimes less--I received from home.²⁵

As a young journalist in Italy, he resorted to his belief in violence as he had done in altercations as a child. He states:

I understood now that the Gordian knot of Italian political life could only be undone by an act of violence. Therefore I became the public crier of this basic, partisan, warlike conception. The time had come to shake the souls of men and fire their minds to thinking and acting. It was not long before I was proclaimed the mouthpiece of the intransigent revolutionary socialist faction [the Avanti].²⁶

Benito's father has been described as the "anarchist of the village square."²⁷ "Before he [Benito] came to power he proclaimed...in a public speech: ...the only faith which remains to us individualists, who are destined to perish, is the religion which is today absurd, but eternally consoling, of anarchy."²⁸

²⁵Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 13-14.

²⁶Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 17-18.

²⁷Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 296.

²⁸Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 178.

His father, Alessandro, had named him "Benito," in honor of the Mexican Revolutionary, Benito Juarez who ordered the execution of the Emperor Maximilian.²⁹ Benito believed in the use of force. One author stated, "the use of force has always fascinated him; he rules by force, and admits it. Yet, as he says, violence should be 'surgical,' and not 'sporting'."³⁰ "By 1921 and 1922 Mussolini steadily expanded his influence, and by a weapon which later dictators were to imitate--violence. He became a sort of gang chieftain....Mussolini's gangs slugged their way to power in half a dozen districts."³¹

Benito, when reflecting on his genealogy, makes a connection between his, and an ancestor's interests. He stated that,

...in the 18th century there was a Mussolini in London.... The London Mussolini was a composer of music of some note and perhaps it is from him that I inherit the love of the violin, which even today in my hands gives comfort to moments of relaxation and creates for me moments of release from the realities of my days.³²

Benito loved music as his ancestor did. Roman Dombrowski, in his book, Mussolini: Twilight and Fall, states that,

...he [Benito] often turned to memories of his youth, and to the habits of this youth. He recovered his love of

²⁹Gunther, "Mussolini," pp. 296-297.

³⁰Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 305.

³¹Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 299.

³²Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 3.

music, which he had given up during his dictatorship, since he had not time to practise. Now [toward the end of the war] he played the violin again, and it soothed his nerves. He could play quite well....One day, he visited Rimini after an air-raid; in some half-ruined villa he took out his violin and played the solo line of the Beethoven Violin Concerto to some high German officers. They clapped him enthusiastically, and he closed his eyes as though he had just made a speech from the balcony of the Palazzo Venezia and was listening to the applause of the thousands of people below.³³

This love of music was passed from Benito to his son, Romano, who at age 18 played accordion in a band.³⁴

Another similarity between Benito and his father was their extramarital affairs. Hibbert relates, "there was little money for food. Rosa Mussolini [Benito's mother] earned only .50 lire a month from her work at school, and much of what Alessandro earned was spent on his mistress."³⁵ Benito was approximately 19 years old when he had his first mistress. Hibbert relates: "In the four months that he spent at Gualtieri he found his first mistress. She was...the wife of a soldier...."³⁶ Benito had many affairs between this first mistress and his last, Clara Petacci, who would eventually die with him. Laura Fermi, in her book, Mussolini, states that,

³³Roman Dombrowski, Mussolini: Twilight and Fall, trans. by H.C. Stevens (New York: Roy Publishers, 1956), p. 137.

³⁴"Mussolini Family," Life, September 23, 1946, p. 48.

³⁵Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography, p. 4.

³⁶Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography, p. 7.

...his primitive, unrestrained sensuality, this proof of manliness--perhaps supermanliness in his mind--was not to subside with age. Over the years, numberless women, young and old, rich and poor, noble and plebian, ignorant and highly educated, were his, often only for a few minutesBut at the height of his incredible career, when everything was to be regulated in Fascist style, women walked up a back stair of Palazzo Venezia to a private entrance either at his invitation or under some pretext they had invented. He was not particular, but took them on sight and dismissed them when his passions were appeased; the relationship might last a quarter of an hour in all.³⁷

Another parental similarity was Benito's status on religion. John Gunther, in his February 1936 Harper's Magazine article, states: "He was an avowed atheist, like his father, in youth; latterly he has become very religious. He prays daily. His wedding gift to Edda was a golden rosary; his youngest child, Anna Maria, was the first to be given a religious name."³⁸ An example of Benito's avid atheism in his earlier years was in 1910 at a congress of the Forli Socialists where Benito,

...carried a resolution defining the practice of the Catholic or any other faith as inconsistent with socialism and expelling from the party those members who followed religious practices or tolerated them in their children. Socialists were enjoined to avoid religious marriage, baptism, or participation in any other religious ceremony.³⁹

³⁷Laura Fermi, Mussolini (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1961), p. 66.

³⁸Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 302.

³⁹Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 45. Author obtained information from Rachele Mussolini's book, My Life with Mussolini (London, 1959), pp. 14-19; and Morelli, Mussolini, p. 22.

Kirkpatrick states that "about this time [1910], Benito married Rachele Guidi, if the term can be applied to a union which was neither sanctified in a church nor legalized in a registry office."⁴⁰

Benito's mother was the religious parent. She has been described as "deeply religious, gentle, patient, and sensitive."⁴¹ Benito, himself, speaking of both his mother and grandmother, stated of his boyhood,

I followed the practice of religion with my mother, who was a believer, and my grandmother, but I could not remain for so long in church, especially during the grand ceremonies. The rosy light of the candles, the penetrating smell of incense, the color of the sacred vestments, the slow, monotonous singing of the faithful, and the sound of the organ all disturbed me profoundly.⁴²

It was due to her insistence that he attended a religious school during his upbringing.⁴³ Here we have an example of a combined similarity to his mother and father on the subject of religion.

Benito, like his father, had a strong will. Benito states of himself:

During my life, I believe, neither my school friends, my war friends, nor my political friends ever had the slightest influence on me. I have listened always with intense interest to their words, their suggestions and sometimes to their advice, but I am sure that whenever I took an extreme decision I have obeyed only the firm

⁴⁰Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 45.

⁴¹Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 19.

⁴²Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 184.

⁴³Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 297.

commandment of will and conscience which came from within.⁴⁴

It was said of Mussolini that he listened to people, seldom took advice, and he alone made decisions.⁴⁵

If this is true that Benito was not influenced by these environmental factors, then genetic inheritance seems to be the origin of his strong will, like that of his father. Indeed, Benito himself talks of this characteristic, prevalent even as a child. "I believe that in those youthful years, just as now, my day began and ended with an act of will--my will put into action."⁴⁶

Benito's attachment to his parental home transferred itself to his close bonds with his own family.

He wanted to be buried within the walls of the monastery of San Cassiano; his parents were lying there, in a crypt beneath the small chapel....He had accompanied the remains of his beloved son Bruno [who died in an airplane crash], to that same crypt, and now he often said that he wished to rest beside him.⁴⁷

In his last letter to his wife before his death, Benito wrote: "Try to create a new life for yourself. Possibly soon now I shall be reunited with Bruno, and I shall pray for you."⁴⁸

⁴⁴Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 22.

⁴⁵Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 302.

⁴⁶Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 4.

⁴⁷Dombrowski, Mussolini: Twilight and Fall, pp. 150-151.

⁴⁸Dombrowski, Mussolini: Twilight and Fall, p. 178.

Generosity and kindness would also be part of Benito's character. He was especially keen on hearing and assisting the common laborer like his father. One can see pictures of Benito, out in a farming community talking to the people and even going so far as to "help them sow, reap, and thresh." He did this notwithstanding his established position as dictator of Italy [1925].⁴⁹ Benito states, talking of his birthplace, "Such was the land, dear to me because it was my soil. Race and soil are strong influences upon us all....I came from a lineage of honest people. They tilled the soil...."⁵⁰ On one occasion when the Duce had spoken "to the hungry peasants in the South had seen their dry and withered skins the tears had poured from his eyes. 'I will care for you,' he said. 'I too have known hunger'."⁵¹ Benito's father was also conscious of the common laborer and his mother, the personification of kindness. Benito states, ...my greatest love was for my mother. She was so quiet, so tender, and yet so strong. Her name was Rosa. My mother not only reared us but she taught primary school. I often thought, even in my earliest appreciation of human beings, of how faithful and patient her work was. To displease her was my one fear. So, to hide from her my pranks, my naughtiness or some result of mischievous frolic, I used to enlist my grandmother and even the neighbors, for they understood my panic lest my mother should be disturbed.⁵²

⁴⁹Fermi, Mussolini, p. 245; and illustration, "The Battle for Wheat," following page 306.

⁵⁰Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 2.

⁵¹Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography, p. 142.

⁵²Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography, p. 5.

Benito, like his mother, would become a teacher. He states, regarding those years,

The bright side of those years of preparation to be a teacher came from my interest in reforming educational methods, and even more in an interest begun at that time and maintained ever since, an intense interest in the psychology of human masses--the crowd.⁵³

This similarity of potentials in intellectual matters, not only is a similarity with his mother but also of his mother's father. Benito's grandfather had been a veterinary surgeon.⁵⁴

Benito was capable of being kind, which propensity could have come from his mother as well as his father, notwithstanding Kirkpatrick's assessment that "she had exercised little influence upon him and he inherited none of her amiable qualities."⁵⁵ Benito recalls,

When birds were in their nesting season [near Benito's birthplace] I was a frantic hunter for their concealment and varied homes with their eggs or young birds. Vaguely I sensed in all this the rhythm of natural progress--a peep into a world of eternal wonder, of flux and change. I was passionately fond of young life; I wished to protect it then as I do now.⁵⁶

Benito stated, "I cannot change myself. I am like the beasts. I smell the weather before it changes. If I submit to my instincts, I never err."⁵⁷

⁵³Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 11.

⁵⁴Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 19.

⁵⁵Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 19.

⁵⁶Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 5.

⁵⁷Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 304.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

Benito's childhood experiences were instrumental in shaping his outlook in many ways. He talks as an adult concerning his restlessness as a child:

I was not a good boy, nor did I stir the family pride or the dislike of my own young associates in school by standing at the head of my class. I was then a restless boy; I am still. Then I could not understand why it is necessary to take time in order to act. Rest for restfulness meant nothing to me then any more than now.⁵⁸

Benito demonstrated his strong will as a young boy in school. Speaking of a transfer to a new village and school, he states:

I walked to and fro and was not displeased that the boys of Predappio resented at first the coming of a stranger boy from another village. They flung stones at me and I returned their fire. I was all alone and against many. I was often beaten, but I enjoyed it with that universality of enjoyment with which boys the world around make friendship by battle and arrive at affection through missile. Whatever my courage, my body bore its imprints. I concealed the bruises from my mother to shelter her from the knowledge of the world in which I had begun to find expression and to which I supposed she was such a stranger. At the evening repast I probably often feared to stretch out my hand for bread lest I expose a wound upon my young wrist.⁵⁹

Another expression of his strong will is demonstrated in his building of the town of "Predappio Nuovo" (New Predappio). His love for the soil, of home, and his ancestors, are demonstrated in this recollection. He recalls:

⁵⁸Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 4.

⁵⁹Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 6.

The call of old life foundations is strong. I felt it when only a few years ago a terrific avalanche endangered the lives of the inhabitants of Predappio. I took steps to found a new Predappio--Predappio Nuovo. My nature felt a stirring for my old home. And I remembered that as a child I had sometimes looked at the plain where the River Rabbi is crossed by the old highway to Mendola and imagined there a flourishing town. To-day that town--Predappio Nuovo--is in full process of development; on its masonry gate there is carved the symbol of Fascism and the works expressing my clear will.⁶⁰

As a young boy Benito was exposed to the political world that would be an integral part of his future life. He recalled,

...it was inevitable that I should find a clearer understanding of the political and social questions which in the midst of discussions with the neighbors had appeared to me as unfathomable, and hence a stupid world of words. I could not follow as a child the arguments of lengthy debates around the table....But now in an obscure way it all appeared as connected with the lives of strong men who not only dominate their own lives but also the lives of their fellow creatures. Slowly but fatally I was turning my spirit and my mind to new political ideals destined to flower for a time. I began with young eyes to see that the tiny world about me was feeling uneasiness under the pinch of necessity.⁶¹

Benito was not only nurtured "around the table" at home but also was taught of his ancestry, the people of Romagna, Italy. He states, "The Romagna--that part of Italy from which we all came--a spirited district with traditions of a struggle for freedom against foreign oppressions."⁶²

Benito never was much for scholastic achievement in his earlier years. He states, recalling his teenage years when

⁶⁰Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 6-7.

⁶¹Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 9-10.

⁶²Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 18.

his mother wanted him to go to school because "he promises something": "At the time I was not very enthusiastic about that conclusion [schooling]; I had no real hunger for scholastic endeavor."⁶³ Even though Benito did finish studies as a teacher, he would claim later that teaching did not suit him.⁶⁴ This was his opinion concerning books:

I do not believe in the supposed influence of books. I do not believe in the influence which comes from perusing the books about the lives and characters of men. For myself, I have used only one big book. For myself, I have had only one great teacher. The book is life--lived. The teacher is day-by-day experience.⁶⁵

Is it not possible that his lack of desire in general schooling came from environmental upbringing or genetic inheritance? In this case, one can detect a combination of genetic and environmental influences. It is true that general subject matter did not really interest Benito. However, he did have the capacity to learn as demonstrated by his ability to obtain a teacher's diploma. Possibly this scholastic potential came from his mother's influence; and his interest in politics from paternal influences. Benito states, concerning studies after receiving his teacher's diploma:

With a kind of passion, I studied social sciences. Pareto was giving a course of lectures in Lausanne on political economy. I looked forward to every one. The mental exercise was a change from manual labor [his previous

⁶³Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 10.

⁶⁴Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 17.

⁶⁵Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 22.

teaching position had closed]. My mind leaped toward this change and I found pleasure in learning.⁶⁶

He would continue reading, being described in later life as "voraciously intelligent."⁶⁷ Gunther relates that Mussolini taught himself both French and German, and in 1925 began to learn English so that he could read the political editorials in the London Times.⁶⁸

Perhaps the experience of losing his mother early in life, like that of Adolf Hitler, linked Benito to Adolf in a peculiar way, that of losing the one soul most important to each of them. Benito, too, had been at his mother's bedside when she died, and also had suffered a terrible loss. He states of the incident:

One day my captain took me aside. He was so considerate that I felt in advance something impending. He asked me to read a telegram. It was from my father. My mother was dying! He urged my return. I rushed to catch the first train. I arrived too late. My mother was in death's agony. But from an almost imperceptible nod of her head I realized that she knew I had come. I saw her endeavor to smile. Then her head slowly drooped, and she had gone. All the independent strength of my soul, all my intellectual or philosophical resources--even my deep religious beliefs [although Mussolini professed atheism, he nevertheless refers to religion to help him in this personal crisis]--were helpless to comfort that great grief. For many days I was lost....My mother had suffered for me in so many ways. She had lived so many hours of anxiety for me because of my wandering and pugnacious life. She had predicted my ascent. She had toiled and

⁶⁶Mussolini, My Autobiography, p. 14.

⁶⁷Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 296.

⁶⁸Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 303.

hoped too much and died before she was yet 48 years old. She had, in her quiet manner, done superhuman labors.⁶⁹

Benito's upbringing in a "normal" family home life, is reflective of this refuge in later life. He has been described as "the only dictator with a very strong regard for family life. Like Napoleon (and Hindenburg) he trusts members of his immediate family, and not many other people."⁷⁰

Gunther states that Benito was claustrophobic. He relates that,

...certainly Mussolini's prison experiences caused his present pronounced claustrophobia. Once he refused to enter the Blue Grotto in Capri. And it is obvious that this famous predilection for enormous rooms...is overcompensation for confinement in small prison cells.⁷¹

Similar to when he was a boy, Benito loved the outdoors as an adult. He loved riding horses, fencing, swimming, and hiking. Benito also did not either smoke or drink.⁷² Gunther, in his 1936 Harper's Magazine article states: "The things that Mussolini hates most are Hitler [this hate would eventually change], aristocrats, money, cats, and old ageThe things that Mussolini loves most are the city of Rome...his daughter Edda, peasants, books, airplanes, and

⁶⁹Mussolini, My Autobiography, pp. 16-17.

⁷⁰Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 300.

⁷¹Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 297.

⁷²Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 301.

speed."⁷³ One can pick from these qualities and relate them to characteristics of Benito's parents and his own children. Only a lack of additional information on Benito's parents prevents us from recognizing additional similarities.

Benito was also superstitious. Hibbert refers to a comment made by Margherita Sarfatti that Benito had strange beliefs "about the moon, the influence of its cold light upon men and affairs and the danger of letting its rays shine on your face when you are sleeping." Hibbert states that this "belief in the malign influence of moonlight was perhaps inherited from his father, who blamed its rays for an attack of scurvy he suffered when he was in prison in 1902."⁷⁴ Kirkpatrick traces Benito's superstition to his childhood environment, stating:

He made friends with an old witch in Dovia...who dispensed love philters [potions] and quack medicines; and she taught him music. She must have had some influence over him, since for the rest of his life he was superstitious and always had a strange confidence in his own premonitions.⁷⁵

Kirkpatrick states that Benito's "character was molded by his early environment and by the uncompromising socialism of his father, who taught him the primitive laws of vengeance and to hate the monarchy, the Church, and

⁷³Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 303.

⁷⁴Hibbert, Benito Mussolini: A Biography, p. 53.

⁷⁵Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 22. Author obtained information from Margherita Sarfatti's book, The Life of Mussolini (London, 1925), p. 59.

society."⁷⁶ It is true that Benito's childhood environment did contribute to his character. However, one must not disregard genetics. Both Mussolini and Hitler could have been assassinated by a woman, whose crowning attributes were beauty and figure. One could have penetrated the "inner circle" of both these dictators in another manner. The Allies could have recruited a sculptor, posing as one who wished to make a memorial to Hitler's or Mussolini's mother. The potentialities of such an agent could have been exploited once he was within "the inner circle."

Options of action and counteraction increase by really "knowing" Benito Mussolini through the study of his parents; children; and grandparents (if data are available), and environmental upbringing. I say children, because in our day, it would be invaluable to interview and study the genetic inheritance and environmental upbringing of the offspring to better understand the parent. This is especially true when the parent has died.

Enumerating some of Benito's similarities to his parents can be enlightening. He was rebellious, anarchic, prone to violence, anti-clerical, politically active, had a special feeling for the common laborer, and physically similar to his father. He would show kindness to the farm worker, was fond of his children, and took great solace and refuge in home life. He was capable of kindness like his mother. He

⁷⁶Kirkpatrick, Mussolini: A Study in Power, p. 19.

was also capable of intellectual achievement like both his mother and maternal grandfather. He could excel in subjects he was interested in, especially in political subjects like his father. He was a journalist like his father. Both wrote political works, indicating not only that they both wrote, but also the possibility of genetically receiving intellectual potential from his father as well. He was musically inclined like his London ancestor, and a soldier like his paternal grandfather. He did commit adultery like his father. He served in prison like both his father and paternal grandfather. We could go on and enumerate similarities in Benito's children. Bruno and Vittorio were both flyers like their father. Physical similarities are evident between Benito and his children. Romano was musically inclined like his father. Benito played the violin, and Romano eventually joined a band and played accordion. The similarities could continue, especially if one had more information on Benito's parents, grandparents, and children.

Benito's genetic inheritance and childhood environment were instrumental in shaping his character. How he reacted to his environment was shaped long ago in the womb and solidified during childhood. Benito himself said, as an adult, "I cannot change...."⁷⁷ Would not Benito Mussolini know himself better than anyone else? A dossier containing

⁷⁷Gunther, "Mussolini," p. 304.

Mussolini's genetic links, and childhood upbringing would only have enhanced the Allies' knowledge of this dictator and "proponent of terror." If such information was not contained in a dossier during the war, it should have been.

VI. "CARLOS" (ILICH RAMIREZ SANCHEZ): TERRORIST,
GENETIC AND CHILDHOOD INFLUENCES

The man known to the world as Carlos, "Jackal," and a number of other aliases, was in fact Ilich Ramirez Sanchez of Caracas, Venezuela, born on October 12, 1949. This man, who would be fluent in Spanish, English, Russian and communicate in French, Arabic and German, would become the most wanted terrorist of the mid-1970s.¹ Who was this man who shot Edward Sieff, the British Zionist; seized the French Embassy at the Hague in 1973; planned rocket attacks on El Al aircraft at Orly airport in 1975; and led the spectacular kidnapping of 11 oil ministers attending the OPEC conference in Vienna in December 1975?² In significant degree, he was the sum of his genetic inheritance and environmental childhood upbringing.

A. PATERNAL SIMILARITIES

Carlos's father was Dr. Jose Altagracia Ramirez Navas. In his early twenties, Jose decided to study law in Colombia.

¹Ovid Demaris, Brothers in Blood (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1977), p. 22.

²Terrence Smith, "Carlos the Terrorist," New York Times, May 7, 1977, p. 23.

³Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 22.

and attend the university of Bogota.⁴ As a young lawyer, he married Carlos's mother, Elba, who came from Jose's home town in Venezuela. They had three sons, all of whom were named after Lenin: Ilich in 1949, Lenin in 1951, and Vladimir in 1958.⁵

Ilich's father was an avowed Marxist, having been influenced by both Jorge Gaitan and Gustavo Machado in Colombia. Gaitan had been a populist leader whose murder was instrumental in plunging Colombia into a civil war. Machado was a leading figure of the outlawed Venezuelan Communist Party. It was Machado, stated Ilich's father, that turned him into a Marxist.⁶

Carlos's father explained his philosophy in an interview given to The Observer in January 1976, one month after his son's successful raid of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries's (OPEC) conference in Vienna. Dr. Ramirez states:

I was pro-Soviet up to the time of Khrushchev, but now I think that the Communist parties have become conservative. The change from capitalist system to the socialist system is only possible through armed struggle. So philosophically and politically I am in total agreement with my son Ilich--although we may diverge a little on strategic matters.⁷

⁴Colin Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1976), p. 26.

⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 28.

⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 26-27.

⁷Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 27.

Carlos, like his father, was a Marxist. Claire Sterling, in her book, The Terrorist Network, states that between 1966 and 1975, Carlos was an orthodox Communist.⁸ In 1979, in the only known interview of Carlos, he stated, "the only war that counts is the one between socialism and capitalism."

Carlos could be stubborn like his father. Even his mother saw this resemblance.¹⁰ His father would not join the Venezuelan Communist Party. While at Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow, Carlos and his brother Lenin would explain their nonconformity by saying they were not members of the Venezuelan Communist Party and did not have to "behave like good little Communists."¹¹ Barry Woodhams, an acquaintance of Carlos while both were in London, said that Carlos was "hardheaded about getting his way."¹²

Carlos's father could obviously organize and plan effectively. One does not receive a doctoral degree with poor planning. Carlos, too, was renown for his planning ability. Six months before his OPEC raid, he had decided that he wanted German terrorists Gabriele Kroeher-Tiedemann

⁸Claire Sterling, The Terror Network (New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1981), p. 133.

⁹Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 149.

¹⁰Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 85.

¹¹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 35.

¹²Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 44.

and Hans-Joachim Klein to help him in the OPEC operation. French Security Forces (DST) found in the summer of 1975, his scribbled note with their names and an annotation: "Our battle group Arm of the Arab Revolution."¹³ Speaking of the notes found in Carlos's belongings, Sheik Yamani, the Saudi Arabian oil minister who would be slated to die in the upcoming OPEC raid¹⁴; advised that the French police found among Carlos's papers a detailed plan outlining an assassination of Yamani, which showed that Carlos had been completely informed about Yamani's movements and places of contact in the town where the assassination was to take place.¹⁵ Before the Hague raid, Carlos researched the background of the diplomats likely to be involved in the negotiations.¹⁶ In the OPEC raid, he insured that effervescent vitamin C tablets and amphetamines were brought along to aid him and his group in staying awake and healthy during the siege.¹⁷ He planned the OPEC attack to take place on a cold Sunday morning,¹⁸ a time when security forces would most likely be sparse and enjoying their warm

¹³Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 54.

¹⁴Edgar O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism (San Rafael, California: Presidio Press, 1979), p. 219.

¹⁵Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 13.

¹⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 174.

¹⁷Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 228.

¹⁸Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 3.

homes, preparing for Christmas. When Austrian Chancellor Kreisky tried to renegotiate Carlos's terms during the OPEC siege, Carlos replied, "No, the Chancellor has to stop these things. Tell him that I know all the tricks. He must do what I say or I will start shooting the people in half an hour."¹⁹

Carlos was not one to scoff at acquiring the necessary skills to accomplish any mission he might be asked to execute. In 1974, a year prior to the OPEC raid, Carlos returned secretly to Moscow for "specialized courses in political indoctrination, sabotage, weaponry, and killer karate."²⁰ When the time came for such an operation, a year later, he was ready.

Colin Smith, in his book, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, explained that Carlos's father passed onto him at an early age a glorification of revolution.²¹ One of Carlos's favorite sayings would be, "You do things with bullets--bullets are real."²² Did Carlos inherit this

¹⁹Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 12.

²⁰Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 136. Sterling's note: Annual of Power and Conflict, 1976-1977, reports Carlos's return to Moscow for these four specialized advanced courses, around 1974. In The Carlos Complex, Dobson and Payne report Carlos's stint at these special courses with PFLP comrades in 1975 (p. 39). The latter report came from an Arab terrorist imprisoned in Israel who swore he had seen Carlos in the Moscow camp.

²¹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 90.

²²Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 32.

belief in violence, or was it totally environmentally acquired? Maybe a bit of both. I merely point out the similarity.

Carlos's belief in "bullets" would be demonstrated in attacks on buildings, aircraft, and individuals. While in London on November 18, 1973, he shot and wounded Alan Quartermaine, who happened to be the wrong man. Approximately two weeks later, on November 30, he forced his way into the London home of Joseph Sieff, a prominent British Zionist, and critically injured him.²³ J. Edward Sieff was the honorary vice-president of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain.²⁴ Carlos, speaking of the Sieff incident, stated:

I ordered the butler to take me to his master, who was in the bathroom. I fired three times, only one bullet hit him, on the upper lip. Generally, I fire three bullets at the nose, which kills instantly. But this fellow was lucky. Only one bullet got him, and his teeth checked the shock. So he escaped death.²⁵

Carlos's subsequent caper was his participation in the seizing of the French embassy in Holland, which resulted in the release of a Japanese terrorist from a prison in Paris.²⁶ Although Japanese terrorists under the direction of Carlos actually conducted the raid, Carlos did personally

²³O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, pp. 207-208.

²⁴Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 33.

²⁵Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 139.

²⁶Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 77.

blow up "Le Drugstore" in Paris with a grenade when negotiations seemed deadlocked at the Hague. He added, "If the government does not do what it should, we will attack a cinema next."²⁷ The Japanese terrorist was subsequently released from prison.

On the 13th and 19th of January, 1975, Carlos's Paris-based terrorists attempted to blow up El Al aircraft at Orly airport outside of Paris. However, they were unsuccessful on both attempts.²⁸ Then, during that summer, Carlos shot three French Security (DST) men, killing two and critically wounding the third. Also killed was Michel Mourkarbal, for "betraying him." The next day, at the airport, Carlos told a friend, "I have just shot two men....A dirty Arab betrayed me and I kill all those who betray me."²⁹

Carlos's most famous caper and act of violence was his raid on the OPEC conference in Vienna, Austria on December 21, 1975. It was here, at 11 a.m., that he and his terrorists burst into the OPEC offices and during the ensuing struggle, Carlos killed Yusef Ismari, a Libyan economist working at OPEC who had tried to wrestle a gun from him.³⁰ Carlos told his fellow terrorist Klein, after

²⁷Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 57.

²⁸O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 213.

²⁹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 211.

³⁰O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 215.

he [Carlos] had put seven bullets into his victim's head and chest, "We needed an exemplary precedent."³¹ Later, fellow countryman and Venezuelan oil minister Valentin Acosta asked Carlos if he would have really hurt him and those Carlos termed as "neutrals" (i.e., ministers of Gabon, Nigeria, Ecuador, Venezuela, and Indonesia). Carlos's reply was, "Oh, we wouldn't have shot you until the very last."³² At one point on the "OPEC" plane trip, Captain Pollock, the pilot, asked Carlos why he had become a terrorist. Carlos replied, "Because violence is the one language the Western democracies can understand."³³ When Carlos's father heard of the OPEC raid, he waited until he saw photographs of his son and then he thought proudly: "My son has turned out to be a general!"³⁴ It is evident that both father and son believed in armed struggle and violence.

B. MATERNAL SIMILARITIES

Carlos had his mother's looks rather than those of his father. His father's face was longer than Ilich's "Indian face with thicker lips." There was perhaps a father's resemblance around the nose and ears.³⁵

³¹Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 146.

³²Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 278.

³³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 276.

³⁴Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 256.

³⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 27.

Superficially, Carlos had the same temperament as his mother, namely, an "hedonistic extrovert, the unquenchable joie de vivre [buoyant enjoyment of life]."³⁶ His mother was described as an attractive divorcee who was popular in London diplomatic circles.³⁷ Carlos was described as a playboy³⁸, an attractive, worldly "gentleman" who felt relaxed with all kinds of people.³⁹ Carlos enjoyed being liked and was a socialite like his mother. Captain Carlos Porras, the Venezuelan Naval Attache in London, described Carlos as "a charming and sophisticated young person."⁴⁰ Even in a seemingly stressful situation Carlos would make jokes. Referring to his Arab terrorist companion who was installing wiring for explosives during the OPEC raid, he groaned and said that he had shown him how to do it a thousand times but that he still couldn't get it right. Captain Pollack found Carlos friendly, and anxious to please, "almost as if he didn't want to think people might not like him."⁴¹

Carlos, like his mother, enjoyed going to parties and living the "good life." In addition to parties, Carlos

³⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 85.

³⁷Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

³⁸Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

³⁹Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 43.

⁴⁰Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 88.

⁴¹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 276.

liked girls, and drink, and could afford to indulge in these "delights" with a millionaire father who could support his habits.⁴² Carlos was a member of Churchills, in London, an expensive after-theatre dining club. At Churchills and such establishments he drank nothing but Napoleon Brandy. He also played poker in a private group of businessmen he had been introduced to through his mother.⁴³

Both Naval Attache Porras and his ambassador, Senor Carlos Perez de la Cova, thought Ilich a credit to his mother.⁴⁴ They described Ilich's mother as "one of those females who are habitually called handsome rather than beautiful. They stated that, "always impeccably dressed and coiffured during the day, she spent a lot of her time antique hunting or buying more accessible objects d'art."⁴⁵ Carlos, too, would dress in fine clothing and enjoy the "comforts of life." Captain Porras described Ilich as "always fashionably dressed," when he saw him.⁴⁶

Carlos disliked the "spartan discomforts" of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) training

⁴²O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 207.

⁴³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 155.

⁴⁴Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 91-92.

⁴⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 91-92.

⁴⁶Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 24.

camps.⁴⁷ Hans-Joachim Klein, one of Carlos's cohorts in the OPEC raid, taught for eight months after the raid in a terrorist training camp in Aden, South Yemen. He stated he found "that those that live at the top lived like kings, and the others like dirt. The Chiefs had movies, discotheques, a special restaurant and cash....The Palestine troops had nothing."⁴⁸ No wonder Carlos, of all people, would be disgruntled in having to change from his lifestyle to one of deprivation, until of course, he became a "king."

An example of his preferential lifestyle was when he hijacked the plane with the OPEC hostages. When Carlos was not talking to the pilot in the cockpit, he would sit and talk to the Algerian oil minister in one of the first-class seats, or walk through the cabin chatting to the other hostages and signing autographs.⁴⁹ Within one hour after releasing the last hostages and giving himself up, he had received political asylum and with a female contact from Paris, was relaxing at the Edwardier Hotel in Algiers.⁵⁰ He, like his mother, loved the affluent life, and the comforts of wealth. Barry Woodhams, an acquaintance in London, said that there was this "aura of affluence around

⁴⁷O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 207.

⁴⁸Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 91.

⁴⁹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 276.

⁵⁰Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 19.

him, that he was slightly more high-class, better situated than the rest of us....He wanted to be rich....He looked at me and said, 'I want to be rich'."⁵¹ In The Interview of 1979, Carlos stated:

I like good food and good cigars. I like to sleep in a good bed freshly made. I like to walk in good shoes. I like to play poker and blackjack. I like parties, and dances, and going to see a dramatic play from time to time. I know I'm going to be assassinated someday, so I like living to the hilt.⁵²

Carlos also liked staying in Hilton hotels, taking hot showers "all day long."⁵³

Carlos did not like inefficiency and would become irritated when words replaced action. He knew that his mother was similar. He knew she would become irritated if he just laid around their home all day and did not do anything.⁵⁴ Dr. Ramirez was more a man of words than action. When he was in his sixties, and first spoke to the press about his son, he admitted that he was not of the same "belligerent cast of mind" as his son, Ilich.⁵⁵ This, nevertheless, probably did not change his opinion that his son had been "a general."⁵⁶

⁵¹Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 44.

⁵²Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

⁵³Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

⁵⁴Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 85.

⁵⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 27.

⁵⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 256.

Carlos was a man of action early in life. Unlike and unknown to his father, he did join the Venezuelan Communist Party when he was 15 years old and since then had been a pro-Moscow Party activist.⁵⁷ This testimony somewhat contradicts Colin Smith's statement that Ilich and his brother were not party members while at Patrice Lumumba University.⁵⁸ According to Claire Sterling in her book, The Terror Network, in 1966 Carlos received guerilla training in Cuba. He had been sent there by the Venezuelan Communist Party and took the opportunity to stop there and train before resuming his trip to London where his father had sent him.⁵⁹ Carlos's father would stoutly deny that Ilich had been a member of the Venezuelan Communist Party⁶⁰, but one must take into account that Dr. Ramirez was intelligent and wealthy, but not much of a politically action-oriented person like Carlos. Even when Ilich got to London he continued his activities. He states of his arrival in London in 1966 and then subsequent study in Moscow:

I founded the first student international in the labor world, with Irish and British comrades. I went to Patrice Lumumba University in Moscow; the Communist Party in Venezuela paid my way....It was at this university period

⁵⁷Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 134.

⁵⁸Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 35.

⁵⁹Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 135. Author obtained information from Christopher Dobson and Ronald Payne, The Carlos Complex, p. 36; Michel Poniatowski, L'Avenir n'est écrit nulle part, p. 203.

⁶⁰Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 134.

of my studies that I engaged in some modest operations, of which I cannot speak in detail.⁶¹

After applying for entrance into Patrice Lumumba University, he waited in London for the application to be approved. The approval came just in time, as Ilich was not renown for his patience and he had begun to think of applying elsewhere.⁶²

Ilich would subsequently be expelled from Patrice Lumumba University for misconduct. However, he would emerge as the PFLP's main boss in Western Europe. When he took over in Europe he wanted to show his PFLP boss that he was a man of action and that the Paris cell would survive after the death of its previous leader, Mohammed Boudia. He began to make contact with other terrorist groups⁶³ and would eventually become a focal point for international terrorism. Being a man of action, he was befuddled by why the Japanese terrorists who took over the French Embassy at the Hague, had not killed the ambassador.⁶⁴ His desire for action and efficiency is exemplified when he requested in Libya, through Captain Pollack, to taxi to the spot reserved for Qaddafi. When the tower refused, he angrily stated;

⁶¹Sterling, The Terror Network, pp. 134-135.

⁶²Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 33.

⁶³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 141.

⁶⁴Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 132. Author is using information given by "Carlos" in The Interview which ran in two parts, starting December 1, 1979; reproduced in part in Le Figaro (Paris), December 15, 1979.

I worked for a month preparing this commando action and now we won't get the proper honor from the Libyan government. God! How can I work for these people? They are so inefficient.⁶⁵

Carlos's value to his superiors was his dependability, expertise, and a flair for showmanship. Carlos states he inherited this from his grandfather on his mother's side.⁶⁶ If Carlos is correct, then we have identified three more attributes received by Carlos through his mother.

C. PATERNAL AND MATERNAL SIMILARITIES

Carlos has been described as having main interests of sex and money. I do not know about the sex lives of his parents. However, they did both enjoy the comforts of wealth. Carlos, too, loved being affluent. His fantasies would sometimes turn to making an instant fortune. He once told Barry Woodhams, for example, that he wished he had been part of an armored raid on the American Express Office in Kensington.⁶⁷ His father was described as a dollar millionaire and probably a sterling one.⁶⁸

Carlos, too, became a millionaire just as he had dreamed. He had to pull off the OPEC raid to do it. Reputedly, he received two million dollars from Qaddafi for

⁶⁵Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 18.

⁶⁶Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

⁶⁷Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 156.

⁶⁸Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 28.

the kidnappings.⁶⁹ Another account places the sum at five million indicating that it is unknown how much went to Carlos and how much to the PFLP.⁷⁰ Claire Sterling relates that "big shots," like Carlos, could count on Qaddafi for lavish hospitality, to include handsome villas complete with staff, car, and chauffeur.⁷¹ An affluent lifestyle was not unknown to either Carlos, his mother or father.

Carlos's overwhelming confidence could have come from both his mother and father. From his father, he received the intellectual capability to achieve and grasp complex situations and reduce them to simple conclusions; from his mother, confidence in dealing with people. After Señor Freddy Arocha Castresana, the Venezuelan Ambassador to Austria visited Carlos at the OPEC building, he described Carlos as "a boy of 25 or 28 who was very confident."⁷² Some of the girls at Langham College in London where Carlos taught Spanish, did not like him, especially his "gigolo confidence."⁷³ Once, when his London acquaintance, Barry Woodhams was describing to Carlos new airport security

⁶⁹William Gutteridge, ed., Contemporary Terrorism (New York: Facts On File Publications, The Institute for the Study of Conflict, 1986), p. 36.

⁷⁰O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 305.

⁷¹Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 264.

⁷²Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 257.

⁷³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 86.

devices that check luggage for explosives, Carlos replied, "It's easy [getting through] if you're absolutely determined."⁷⁴

D. ENVIRONMENTAL INFLUENCES

Carlos was influenced by environmental factors while growing up in Venezuela. Carlos's family roots come from the town of San Cristobal, approximately 500 miles from the capital of Caracas. Presidents and rulers of Venezuela had come from this area. No doubt Carlos heard stories of their lives from his father who was born on a ranch about half an hour's drive from San Cristobal.⁷⁵ Indeed, Carlos's mother could have told him of the area as she was said to have come from the same hometown as his father.⁷⁶

The Ramirez family would be separated shortly after Vladimir was born when the marriage began to break up, and for the next five years (1958-1963), Elba Ramirez and her sons traveled around the Caribbean.⁷⁷ Carlos at this time [1958] of tension and crisis was nine years old, an impressionable age, an age where a boy needs a father. Carlos's father "bitterly regretted" that he could no longer

⁷⁴Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 45.

⁷⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 25-26.

⁷⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 28.

⁷⁷Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 28.

live with his wife.⁷⁸ Carlos must have felt this anger and tension in his home and been affected by it. Carlos was brought up in a strict matriarchal atmosphere.⁷⁹ Bonds that should have been established with both parents were mainly established with his mother due to his parents' separation. Before releasing the Venezuelan oil minister from the plane carrying the OPEC hostages, Carlos gave the minister a letter addressed to his mother, Doña Elba Sanchez Ramirez in Caracas, Venezuela.⁸⁰ The night following the release of all the hostages, Carlos called his mother from his room in the Albert Memiere Hotel in Algiers.⁸¹

Ilich the young boy loved adventure. Ilich and Lenin had hardly arrived in London in 1966 and settled into their hotel when off they went to see their first "James Bond" film.⁸² Maybe Ilich felt at times that he was the James Bond of the 1970's. Ilich and Lenin would get a taste of terrorism in March 1968 on a trip with their father to Paris where windows of Trans-World Airlines, Chase Manhattan Bank, and Bank of America were destroyed in protest against United States involvement in Vietnam.⁸³ Although Dr. Ramirez left

⁷⁸Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 29.

⁷⁹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 29.

⁸⁰Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 17.

⁸¹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 287.

⁸²Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 29.

⁸³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 31.

Paris with Ilich and Lenin shortly after the incident, the boys had nevertheless been exposed. Because of their father's wishes, both Ilich and Lenin attended Moscow's Patrice Lumumba University.⁸⁴ Although Ilich was later expelled from this school for misconduct, he nevertheless had been exposed to the Communist environment surrounding such a university. This probably helped in solidifying his belief in Marxism.

Carlos's affluent upbringing probably contributed to his rebelliousness against authority. After his parents separated, and while traveling with his mother, Ilich had "the best tutors that money could buy."⁸⁵ Ilich was used to having basically anything he wanted growing up as a child. He had been in command since a child, command of resources that accompanied a millionaire father. He did what he pleased. Speaking of Ilich's days at Patrice Lumumba University, Colin Smith relates:

If he came back drunk he would have to sing or shout. If he was out with a girl on a night when he should have been at a political meeting then he would take her to a restaurant where any fool would know they were bound to be several of the staff dining.⁸⁶

During the OPEC raid when the Iraqi diplomat told Carlos of Chancellor Kreisky's demand that the Austrian hostages be

⁸⁴Ken Emerson, "Shadowy Figures of Fear," Wall Street Journal, July 20, 1977, p. 10.

⁸⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 28.

⁸⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 35.

released, Carlos "lost his temper," and yelled: "I command Kreisky and everybody else here. I decide who shall go and who shall stay."⁸⁷ When Carlos received the message from the Tunis airport that he and his hostages could not land there, he told the pilot: "You see, the Tunisians are my enemies. OK, let's land at their airport." He, however, had second thoughts and instructed the pilot not to land, but to fly over and make a lot of noise.⁸⁸

Another reason Carlos could have become so bossy and desirous to prove himself was because as a child [and even in adult life] he was always plump and made fun of. As a boy, he was not good at sports and nicknamed "El Gordo" (the Fat One) by his family.⁸⁹ His mother, who would basically rear him, even called him "El Gordo"⁹⁰ which probably contributed to an inferiority complex about his weight. He was definitely sensitive about his weight.⁹¹ Even his schoolmates called him "El Gordo" which can also be translated as "Fatso."⁹² While teaching Spanish in London, Ilich tried to go out with one of his pupils, writing an

⁸⁷Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 262.

⁸⁸Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 284.

⁸⁹Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 28-29.

⁹⁰Sven Simon and Katharine Young, "New-Look Rogues' Gallery," Newsweek, January 5, 1976, p. 27.

⁹¹Simon and Young, "New-Look Rogues' Gallery," p. 27.

⁹²Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 133.

invitation to come to his home "any time of the day or night for extra tuition." When Lynn Cracknell declined, he tried to get her to go out with Lenin or Vladimir (probably Lenin) stating that his brother was "slimmer than himself."⁹³ Colin Smith relates that towards the end of 1973, Carlos was at his fattest. "He was eating and drinking too much and practically chain-smoked Disques Bleus."⁹⁴

This was probably one reason he had to prove to himself and feed an ego that would get bigger and bigger. In fact, his ego was his main problem, and it was hard for him to keep a secret, even if his life were at risk.⁹⁵ Carlos insured his friends knew that he had been expelled from Patrice Lumumba University for "riotous and dilettante behavior."⁹⁶

Carlos, after taking over the Paris network following the death of Mohammed Boudia, remarked, "My existence as a marginal revolutionary was transformed. I had become somebody effective."⁹⁷ After the bombing of three newspaper offices in Paris he exclaimed: "I got praise for that from Beirut."⁹⁸

⁹³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, pp. 86-87.

⁹⁴Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 150.

⁹⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 154.

⁹⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 13.

⁹⁷Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 140.

⁹⁸Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 141.

Ernest Demaris, in his book, Brothers in Blood, states that after the first failure by Carlos's men to hit an El Al jet at Orly airport in 1975, he was so much against a repeat performance, that when his group insisted, Carlos refused to accept responsibility and told them they were on their own.⁹⁹ The second attempt from the same location within a week was also a failure. However, this attempt received more publicity than the first due to hostages that were taken. Now Carlos was his braggart self, stating:

We decided to try again a week later, and I checked everything out personally at the airport. We picked a Sunday for the hit, because so many French families come to watch the jets take off on Sundays.¹⁰⁰

Another example of this tendency to exalt himself was when he related how he killed Michel Mourkarbal and the DST agents in his Paris apartment:

When I saw the trap I was in, I pulled my revolver. It was a Russian Tokarev 7.62. I shot the three policemen in the head. There was only Michel left in the room. He came toward me with his hands over his eyes. He knew the rules of the game: a traitor is condemned to die. He stood before me, I shot into his eyes, he fell to the ground, I shot once more into his temple. I was calm. I jumped out of a third-floor window and walked away as if nothing had happened....¹⁰¹

Claire Sterling states that what probably happened was that he was drunk when he shot the men, and that Mourkarbal was probably killed shortly after he entered the apartment,

⁹⁹Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 41.

¹⁰⁰Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 142.

¹⁰¹Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 131.

never having the opportunity to stand penitent before him.¹⁰² Demaris's version of the incident is probably what really happened. Demaris stated that after Moukarbel walked into the apartment, Carlos was asked if he recognized him.

Carlos looked directly at Moukarbel and denied knowing him. Herranz [DST agent] played his trump, handing Carlos the photograph [of Carlos and Moukarbel together] and asked at the same time to see his passport. Carlos went behind the curtain to get it, and when he came out again, there was a 7.65-mm Russian automatic in his hand. Before anyone knew what was happening, he squeezed off five shots that instantly killed Moukarbel, Dous, and Donatini and critically wounded Herranz. All four men were down on the floor as Carlos quickly stepped toward Moukarbel leaned forward, and fired another bullet into his head. He straightened up, looked at the students who were screaming hysterically, and ran out the door. It had taken less than ten seconds. A neighbor saw Carlos dash across the bridge and take the stairs four at a time. A moment later he had vanished into the Paris night.¹⁰³

Carlos, it seems, was an insecure person, probably a result of an inherited desire from his mother to be liked, and a childhood environment of teasing because of his weight. When he took over at the OPEC conference in Vienna, his go-between asked him who he could tell the police they were dealing with. Carlos replied, "My name is Carlos. They all know me. I am the famous Carlos."¹⁰⁴ He even gave the oil ministers spent ammunition as souvenirs and signed autographs for them.¹⁰⁵ On the way to the airport he would

¹⁰²Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 131.

¹⁰³Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 53.

¹⁰⁴O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 216.

¹⁰⁵Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 270.

wave from the bus to onlookers¹⁰⁶ and had told Saudi Arabian oil minister Yamani that "he had personally trained 40 commandos and promised to lead other raids in the future."¹⁰⁷ Maybe he did train 40 commandos, however, he did not lead any more raids after the OPEC caper so even this training "accomplishment" is in question. Valentin Hernandez, the Venezuelan oil minister, stated that "he [Carlos] boasted of his deeds, handed out autographs, and told us the OPEC attack was a completely new operation developed by himself...."¹⁰⁸ Edgar O'Ballance, in his book, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, states that Wadia Hadad, who was supplying German terrorists with arms, was the mastermind behind the OPEC raid.¹⁰⁹ After the OPEC raid, the egotistical Ilich received world press attention and the "Jackal" was now lauded as the "premier international terrorist."¹¹⁰ No doubt the OPEC raid vaulted Carlos's ego to its pinnacle.

¹⁰⁶Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 272.

¹⁰⁷Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 14.

¹⁰⁸Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 16.

¹⁰⁹O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 215.

¹¹⁰O'Ballance, Language of Violence: The Blood Politics of Terrorism, p. 220.

E. CONCLUSION

It is important to study the individual terrorist leader and not just his organization and tactics. Charles Russell and Bowmans Miller, in the revised version of their article, "Profile of a Terrorist," state that before Carlos, "considerable less attention was given to an examination of the individuals involved in terrorist activity."¹¹¹ This is a good point. This being the case, we have been collecting information on individual terrorists for less than two decades. It is important to understand the terrorist himself. To understand Carlos, one must also attempt to gather as much information as possible regarding the character traits of his parents, and the conditions of his childhood environment. Carlos was like his father intellectually, philosophically, politically, and financially. He also could be stubborn like his father. He was like his mother temperamentally, socially, and like her, was action-oriented. His love of money probably came from both his parents, and was probably accentuated by being reared in wealth. His childhood environment was laced with all that money could buy and Carlos grew up expecting to get what he wanted--material items or obedience to his will. As a child and then an adult, he was insecure because he was

¹¹¹Lawrence Zelic Freedman and Yonah Alexander, editors, Perspectives on Terrorism (Wilmington, Delaware: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1983), p. 45. Information taken from revised article by Charles A. Russell and Bowman H. Miller, entitled: "Profile of a Terrorist."

overweight. Carlos would compensate for this insecurity by gaining notoriety.

If one does not include genetic inheritance and childhood environmental factors in terrorist dossiers, an important part of the essence of the individual is lost. Without such information, the counterterrorist becomes one of those who thinks he knows the terrorist but actually remains in the dark. Demaris speaks of this inaccurate and confused picture that one must have, without the parents and early environment, when he writes about Carlos:

As his persona grew more mysterious, his image seemed to fade on police photographs. He was tall, he was short; he was fat, he was thin; his features were soft, they were sharp; he looked like Fidel, like Che, like a Jew, like a Palestinian, and sometimes, of course, like a South American. He was cruel, humane, vain, gentle, cold-blooded, generous, vicious, pleasant, petulant [insolent], intelligent, reckless, thoughtful, and fanatic. He was a Soviet agent, a Cuban spy, a Macist, a Marxist, a Trotskyite, a playboy, a gangster--he was anything anybody wanted him to be.¹¹²

Most people would probably agree that genetic inheritance and childhood environmental factors are important in understanding human nature. It is difficult to exaggerate the importance of such factors and Carlos himself wrote, regarding his political views:

Marxism has always been my religion....It was hereditary, first of all. It was in the atmosphere of our house, in my parents' blood. I later acquired a personal culture by traveling in Russia....¹¹³

¹¹²Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 62.

¹¹³Sterling, The Terror Network, p. 134.

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In April 1984, former German General F.W. Von Mellenthin came to Camp Pendleton, California and participated in a 1st Marine Division exercise. General Von Mellenthin had served on the German General Staff and had participated in the African, Russian, and European campaigns during World War II. He was participating in this Marine exercise as the Commanding General of the 1st Marine Amphibious Force. There were approximately 35 Marine officers present at his first staff meeting. After sitting down, his first request was to see his intelligence officer. He then asked the intelligence officer: "Tell me something about the character of the opposing commander."¹

The character of the commander! That was of primary importance to this veteran soldier. Such vital human factors should be of similar primary importance to those combatting terrorism. Research on terrorist organizations and their modus operandi are important and part of the intelligence collection effort, but if one does not know the individual terrorist leaders, he is fighting with one hand behind his back.

¹Lecture, Professor Russel H.S. Stolfi, Fall 1988, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California.

How can one develop such information? It is difficult enough to get information on whole terrorist groups themselves. A fundamental question is: have the parents and siblings been interviewed? If alive and accessible, they might cooperate in interviews. Parents and siblings should be asked to each describe their own character and childhood upbringing. The intelligence compiler then can ask them to describe their sons or daughters in the same fashion. An analyst would likely find peculiarities that could be of value in neutralizing the proponent of terror. Does the mother have a quick temper? Does the father? If both do, then there is a good chance that the terrorist leader has the same characteristic. Those intelligence data collectors with creative imaginations could recreate a more favorable or adverse environment around the terrorist from the information gathered.

Let's shift ground for a moment and talk about one of America's war heroes. Audie Murphy, America's most decorated soldier of World War II, was asked how he was able to do such incredible things. His reply: "At no stage in my life did I understand what death meant."²

Does the terrorist being tracked understand what death means? Do his father and mother have a grasp of the potential nearness of death? Was the child taught in the

²D. Keith Mano, "The Making of a Terrorist," National Review, June 19, 1987, p. 59.

home about death? If not, any form of intimidation would probably not work and should be disregarded as an option. On a different plane, let's say the terrorist is allergic to certain food. Let us suppose that the data gathered indicated that a terrorist leader was allergic to pineapple. With some imagination, could the rescue team lace food delivered to the terrorists and hostages with pineapple extract? The terrorist leader probably would get sick, but the others, be they terrorists or hostages, probably would not. If the leader became ill enough, command of the operation might be changed to another. This change might be desirable, especially if negotiations were not proceeding as planned. The argument emerges: if one knows the physical and psychological sensibilities of a terrorist and the terrorist's childhood environmental upbringing, then one knows the person better. The counterterrorist is able to deal with a more predictable individual rather than an entity who is unpredictable because presumably he is a shadowy, covert terrorist.

Because a person is a terrorist does not mean that he or she is always calm under stress. A terrorist might have already killed, but is not necessarily a spontaneous killer. One can use such information. One could target the person known to hesitate, for example, the one who grew up as an insecure child. Isolate that person if possible, and if that person happens to be guarding an entrance, consider

attacking from that direction. Why? Because the possibility exists that such a person would panic to the point of misjudgment more readily than a person who was raised by parents who were confident types and transferred the same confidence to their child.

Carlos researched the backgrounds of the diplomats that would probably negotiate with "his" Japanese terrorists at the Hague in September 1974.³ Could not the operation have been seen by Carlos as simply a matter of kidnapping the French Ambassador? I think not.

Carlos presumably is still at large. Do we want to find Carlos? If we do, we need to keep track of his mother (if she is still alive). Carlos is now 40 years old, his mother a probable 60 to 65. Carlos was brought up by his mother. His bonds are closer to his mother than his father. He did not ask the Venezuelan oil minister to deliver a letter to his father while on the hijacked plane, but to his mother. It was his mother he called from his hotel room one day after the OPEC raid. Why not also interview his brothers Lenin and Vladimir and gather data from them about Ilich? Carlos's brothers lived in the same home, have genes from the same parents, and should be able to characterize both Carlos and their parents.

Physical similarities can be seen between child and parents. As previously stated, with modern computer

³Smith, Carlos: Portrait of a Terrorist, p. 174.

technology, we can now superimpose a father's picture on that of a son who was kidnapped as a child and come up with a composite photograph of how the child would likely look as a teenager years after the kidnapping. If genetics are involved in the transfer of physical traits, then why not behavioral as well?

Freda Adler Rutgers and Rita James Simon, in their book, The Criminology of Deviant Women, state that,

...a failure to perceive the distinctive psychology of women in this role [of terrorist] can be disastrous, for the effectiveness of the response is determined by the extent to which it is matched to the peculiarities of the individual or individuals at whom it is directed.⁴

Peculiarities of the individual represent perhaps the ultimate human factor.

It was refreshing to read of anti-terrorist units in West Germany (GSG-9--Grenzschutzgruppe 9) and Italy (NOCS--Nucleo Operativo Centrale di Sicurezza) who not only study terrorist methods and ideology, but also study lifestyles.⁵ Let us say that a terrorist holding hostages was raised by an abusive father. It would be unsatisfactory to ask the father to talk with his son. It would be better to ask the mother to be an intermediary if the childhood bonds that had been established were stronger with her.

⁴Freda Adler Rutgers and Rita James Simon, eds., The Criminology of Deviant Women (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1979), p. 154.

⁵Leroy Thompson, The Rescuers: The World's Top Anti-Terrorist Units (New York: Dell Publishing, 1986), p. 99.

On January 10, 1989, the U.S. Department of Defense issued its first guide to international terrorist organizations. Secretary of Defense Frank C. Carlucci stated, "In order to combat terrorism effectively, it is necessary to know the enemy."⁶ The point that goes deeper than knowing the organizations is knowing the character and other traits of the terrorist leaders.

This thesis concludes that genetic inheritance and childhood environment are indispensable elements in "knowing" terrorist leaders and, thus, understanding and predicting their behavior. It is imperative, therefore, for intelligence services supporting counterterrorist action to systematically gather "psycho-historical" data on terrorist leaders. These data should be included as the most important, initial part of any serious counterterrorist dossier.

I am proposing a "deeper" level of collection in contradistinction to counterintelligence collection efforts which consist mainly of general group description rather than individual psychology. For a counterterrorist dossier to be effective, it must contain detailed information of the genetic traits and childhood environment of the terrorist.

⁶Molly Moore, "Pentagon Publishes Profiles of International Terrorists," The Washington Post, January 11, 1989, p. A7.

Counterterrorist dossiers should include the following (by no means all-inclusive) factors (see Table 1) arranged systematically as the first section of any dossier.

TABLE 1
TERRORIST DOSSIER

SECTION I: BASIC CHARACTER

PART I: GENETIC PHYSICAL AND BEHAVIORAL QUALITIES

1. PATERNAL GRANDFATHER: (NAME)
 - a. Physical Characteristics
 1. Date of Birth:
 2. Height:
 3. Weight:
 4. Hair Color:
 5. Facial Features:
 6. Type of walk:
 7. Speech:
 - b. Behavioral Characteristics
 1. Temperament:
 2. Social Habits:
 3. Idiosyncrasies:
 4. Taste in food and drink:
 5. Financial outlook:
 6. Political ideology and activity:
 7. Employment and work record:
 8. Criminal history:
 9. Religion and activeness:
 10. Treatment of wife and children:
 11. Mental health treatment:
2. PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER: (same subcategories for this and subsequent subsections in Part I)
3. FATHER:
4. MATERNAL GRANDFATHER:
5. MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:
6. MOTHER:

TABLE 1 (CONTINUED)

7. BROTHER(S):
8. SISTER(S):
9. TERRORIST'S CHILDREN AS REASONABLY DETERMINED BY AGE:

PART II: CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENT

1. PATERNAL GRANDFATHER: (NAME)
 - a. Place of birth:
 - b. Reared by (parent(s), grandparent(s), other relative):
 - c. Family financial status:
 - d. Sibling relationship(s):
 - e. Religious instruction:
 - f. School record (academic and disciplinary):
 - g. Juvenile criminal record:
 - h. Political instruction:
 - i. Shocks (i.e., death in family) and reaction thereto:
2. PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER: (same subcategories as Paternal Grandfather for this and subsequent subsections in Part II)
3. FATHER:
4. MATERNAL GRANDFATHER:
5. MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:
6. MOTHER:
7. BROTHER(S):
8. SISTER(S):
9. TERRORIST'S CHILDREN AS REASONABLY DETERMINED BY AGE:

What I am proposing is that we know the environmental roots of our opponent. Carlos was disgusted when food was brought to the OPEC hostages consisting of sandwiches

(apparently some with pork) and fruit. He stated in disgust: "What is that?" pointing to the food. "Don't they know that most of these people are Muslims and can't eat this food?"⁷ Carlos had done his homework and was disgusted with those who had not done theirs. A reason for Carlos's confidence during the OPEC raid was his preparedness. He probably had studied the character of Chancellor Kreisky, sending him the message during the siege: "Tell him that I know all the tricks."⁸

Leroy Thompson, in his book, The Rescuers: The World's Top Anti-Terrorist Units, states that surprise remains an important tool of anti-terrorist units.⁹ Knowledge of the character of the terrorist opponent is probably the single most important factor in the achievement of surprise against him along with the more quantitative knowledge of the immediate combat terrain.

"Deeper" collections would take time, but if accomplished, would be of immense value during the fight against terrorist movements. The collection of genetic inheritance and childhood environmental data involves work with highly perishable material. Procrastination in collection of such material associated with the memories of living relatives

⁷Demaris, Brothers in Blood, pp. 12-13.

⁸Demaris, Brothers in Blood, p. 12.

⁹Thompson, The Rescuers: The World's Top Anti-Terrorist Units, p. 67.

would have extremely adverse effects on the effectiveness of the battle against the terrorists.

Genetic and childhood environmental information are so important that all terrorist dossiers should systematically include the fundamental information on these primary factors. This information should be placed first in the dossiers and collected (as part of the collection effort for the dossiers) with emphasis on obtaining the information as quickly as possible due to its inherently perishable nature.

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